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Table of international news items and prices for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, and others.

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Where did it all go right?

Feeling good about Britain

G2 with European weather



Mark Lawson joins the social drinkers

This one's on me

Second thoughts, G2 page 7



OnLine

Are mobile phones making us ill?

G2 pages 12/13

Clinton agrees to send US troops into Zaire as part of multi-national force

Mission to save million lives

Britain to join relief operation 'if plan can be worked out'



A woman struggles to be pulled from the crowd as hundreds of hungry people storm the main food aid depot in Goma, eastern Zaire, yesterday

Martin Walker in Washington, Ian Black in London and John Palmer in Brussels

President Bill Clinton yesterday agreed, under intense international pressure, to send United States troops to Zaire as part of a multinational force...

not to disarm militants, nor to conduct any forced entry into the area, nor to police refugee camps.

Crucially, no exit strategy has yet been agreed, nor some basic aims of the mission: whether the troops will shepherd refugees back into Rwanda, or deeper into Zaire.

US ambivalence about the UN and multinational operations means Mr Clinton's decision carries huge political risks. It could end the post-election honeymoon with the Republican Congress.

After a long night of negotiations in the Pentagon, General Maurice Barril, the commander of Canadian ground forces, secured a rare agreement by Washington early yesterday to put its forces under Canadian operational command.

But the US insisted on "robust" rules of engagement. They will be allowed not only to defend themselves, but to patrol aggressively to ensure they are not attacked.

The fast deterioration of conditions in Zaire has led to chaotic military planning, with European sources insisting their operations would come under the organisational umbrella of the Western European Union, and British sources denying it.

The logistical challenge of flying in troops and equipment, and food and medicine for a million refugees, into an area with few roads and dilapidated airfields — where cholera

era vis with Aids as a health hazard for the troops — "will make Somalia look like a tea party", one Pentagon officer told the Guardian yesterday.

"We are looking at literally hundreds of C-5 airlifts," he added, referring to the biggest US military cargo plane.

Every second counts, it is no longer a question of whether to have a force but when, Emma Bonino, the European Union's humanitarian aid commissioner, told the European Parliament yesterday.

work burying corpses, but not much else.

Rwanda's president warned yesterday that Zairean rebels must be consulted. "In order for this operation to work they must secure the airports of Uvira, Bukavu and Goma (in eastern Zaire)."

The mission is to have a tripartite system of organisation. There will be a north American contingent of some

1,500 Canadian troops and two US logistics and communications battalions, with US paratroops as a protective force.

The European contingent will include French and Spanish troops. France is making available its bases in west and central Africa. The Western European Union, still embryonic as the eventual European pillar of Nato, will undergo its first big test when officials meet in Belgium on Monday to coordinate.

Germany said it would not send troops, but the Netherlands

and Belgium are expected to provide at least logistical backing. European countries are expected to foot the bulk of the bill and provide equipment and training for the African contingent, whose participation is seen as politically essential.

The main local contingent will come from South Africa, but at least token units are expected from Mali, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Senegal, Eritrea and the Congolese republic.

Britain was yesterday sounding out Kenya and Uganda over basing support.

The UN Security Council was planning a special session last night to give a formal mandate to the effort, not as a Nato mission, but as an unprecedented "multinational force under Canadian command".

US officials told the Guardian they expected their part of

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

Britain to pitch in, page 7

Al Fayed forces Howard's hand

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

HARRODS' owner Mohamed Al Fayed last night pledged not to rest until he had discovered what lay behind the Government's refusal to grant British passports to him and his brother, Ali.

Mr Al Fayed, who was born in Egypt and has lived in Britain for more than 30 years, won an important victory yesterday when the Court of Appeal said the brothers had not been treated fairly and quashed the decision by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to refuse British citizenship to the two brothers.

"If Mr Howard persists, I will pursue the matter until we have obtained our passports. I will not rest until the truth is known," said Mr Al Fayed.



Mr Al Fayed has been a key figure in disclosing the "cash-for-questions" scandal. He claimed the Home Secretary was prejudiced against him because of family ties with Harold Landy, a close business associate of "Tiny" Rowland, the former Louche chief executive, with whom he fought a bitter takeover battle for the House of Fraser group.

had lived in Britain "blamelessly for 30 years without incurring so much as a parking ticket".

He said he employed 6,000 people and paid £3 million income tax every year. "This is basically a great day for me because justice has been done. I have had a very bad deal and have not been treated fairly."

Three High Court judges, headed by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, in a two-to-one majority decision, ruled that the Al Fayed brothers had been treated unfairly, they should have been told what evidence there was against them before a final decision was made to refuse them British passports.

Mr Howard will now have to reconsider their cases if the Appeal Court decision is upheld by the Lords. The Home Secretary will also have to tell the Al Fayed brothers what evidence counted against them and give them the chance to comment before a final decision is made.

The three judges were told that in the absence of any other return to page 3, column 1



Mohamed Al Fayed... aims to expose 'prejudice'

Embellishments of an illuminary nature put Christmas in the shade

Kamal Ahmed

THE lights on the horticultural festive element will be switched on in two weeks' time. The festive embellishments of an illuminary nature will follow soon after.

Northampton borough council could be accused of being pedantic. But its efforts to satisfy all faiths at Christmas have brought an award for festive gobbledegook from the Plain English Campaign.

In a report to councillors, Steve Priddis, the council's town centre manager, described the wonders that would greet shoppers. The "horticultural festive element" (Christmas tree) will make a welcome addition to the town square while the "festive embellishments of an illuminary nature" (fairy lights) are sure to produce gasps of amazement.

"Crackers is the only word for it," said Christie Maher, director of the Plain English Campaign. "I am all for being fair to

people of other cultures, but to try to do away with Christmas in the name of political correctness is ridiculous.

Northampton have shown themselves to be ridiculous. People of all cultures enjoy Christmas, and they always will."

The National Trust also got a seasonal roasting by the campaign after voluntary staff claimed they were told not to refer to Christmas but to the "festive season" and that they should stop children making the shape of the cross on traditional orange pomanders.

Mr Priddis said Northampton's phrases were supposed to be funny, although there was a serious point to the report.

"We have to consider all the users of the town centre," Mr Priddis said. "We don't want to offend anyone."

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites — an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.

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Inside

Britain

World News

Finance

Sport

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; G2; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 15; TV 16



The Guardian Europe's Quality Newspaper

Sketch

Savaged by a little furry thing



Simon Hoggart

YOU can tell how feared a frontbencher is by the number of people who intervene during his speeches. After 22 minutes yesterday only one MP had dared to interrupt Robin Cook who, naturally, bit his head right off.

At this point Mr Robert Jackson (C. Wantage) intervened with a trick question. Would Mr Cook vote for an accelerated beef cull? Mr Cook regards trick questions with the same contempt David Seaman would feel for a whistle bell. It was barely worth his attention.

Unemployment could fall below 2 million before Christmas □ Heseltine hails 'sparkling performance'

Tory glee at big jobless fall

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

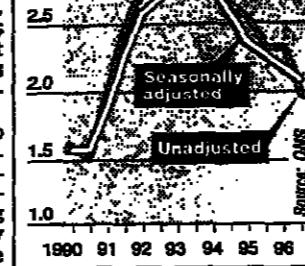
THE Government received a welcome boost yesterday when a sharp cut in the dole queue raised the prospect of unemployment falling below the two million mark before Christmas.

Major's opt-out from the European social chapter. "Britain is on the move," he said. "More of our people have jobs and fewer are out of work than any other major European country."

ment down to 7.2 per cent of the workforce, from 7.4 per cent the previous month — increased speculation of another rise in interest rates to head off inflation.

Dole queue

Unemployed, millions, UK



packets had risen by 4 per cent, unchanged on the rate the previous month. Treasury minister Angela Knight said: "The UK is enjoying steady and responsible growth, with pay inflation below 4 per cent for 3 1/2 years."

on tax. The truth is that one in five working households has no one in a job. Mr Heseltine used the figures to condemn Labour's proposals for a minimum wage and shorter working hours, but the ONS figures hinted at a new readiness in the workforce to strike for better conditions.

First night

Haunted by a spiritual upheaval

Lyn Gardner

Light Shining in Buckinghamshire Brighton/Touring

TAKE theatre out of the theatres and it is often vastly improved, not only attracting new audiences but taking on the resonances and history of the space in which it is performed.

haunted by the ghosts of the ordinary people caught up in a social and spiritual upheaval that failed to deliver. This is theatre as living history, a dialogue between past and present in which the true radicalism of groups such as the Levellers, Diggers and Ranters finds faint but persistent echoes today.

Salvage workers recover the body of a girl from the wreckage of the mid-air collision at Charkhi Dabri, near New Delhi. Nearly 350 were killed

Cargo pilot 'warned of jumbo's path'

Bereaved scour grim remnants of air crash as tapes disclose cabin-control exchanges

Suzanne Goldenberg in Charkhi Dabri

DAZZED and stumbling through the crowds, the families of those who died in the world's worst mid-air collision began searching among the dead yesterday for their loved ones as transcripts confirmed that air controllers had alerted a Kazakh plane that a Saudi jumbo was headed towards it just before the collision near New Delhi.

Tariq Ahmed, from Srinagar in Kashmir, was exhausted after spending 12 hours gazing at the dead, looking for his cousin, Shahid Hussain. The most disfigured lay in heaps in the courtyard.

The remains of both planes miraculously came to rest in barren fields, spewing debris on either side of a 50-yard path, but sparing local people. Shops in Charkhi Dabri were shut yesterday in mourning — and thanksgiving.



Crash victim Karen McCoy (left) and her father, Michael, and stepmother Enid



Suzanne Goldenberg and Owen Rowcott

BRITISH nurse returning from holiday in India and Nepal to her work at a children's intensive care unit in Saudi Arabia, was among those killed in the collision.



Marks and Spencer jumper were recovered from the wreckage yesterday. Inside the guidebook a sheet of folded blue airmail paper was filled with addresses from Birmingham. The items were in a deep crater, excavated by the impact of the front section of the aircraft, which was still smouldering at midday yesterday.

friend and had been due to return to Saudi. She was party outgoing. All she wanted was to travel the world and live life to the full. Karen's father, Michael, aged 55, had a card sent a month ago on which Karen had written: "I'm looking forward to going to Kathmandu and Nepal and doing some white-water rafting."

Lottery regulator accused of 'incompetence' by MP

THE National Lottery watchdog, Peter Davis, was yesterday publicly rebuked for failing to adopt a "more vigorous approach to his regulatory duties."

Mr Davis endured a grilling from another Labour MP, Alan Williams (Swansea West), who accused him of the worst "administrative incompetence" of any organisation he had come across.

Dr RS Garg, the hospital supervisor, said few had been claimed — only 19 by mid-afternoon. He feared that many relatives would not arrive to claim the bodies before tonight, when the authorities have decided to cremate them.

"We can keep them for maximum one day more, but they will have signs of decomposition," Dr Garg said. As he spoke, a loudspeaker broadcast an apology to relatives for a shortage of coffins.

'We feared the worst when we saw the news... All she wanted was to travel the world and live life to the full'



You're test driving the new Audi A3. Do you:

- a) find a narrow ravine with a broken bridge, slam into second and leap the gap shouting 'Geronimo'?
b) roar past a wall of fire at the side of the road to an eighties soundtrack?
c) just go for a drive?

If your answer is (c) please call 0345 699777 for more information.

Experts steady black box, page 7

Ad campaign irritates then celebrates

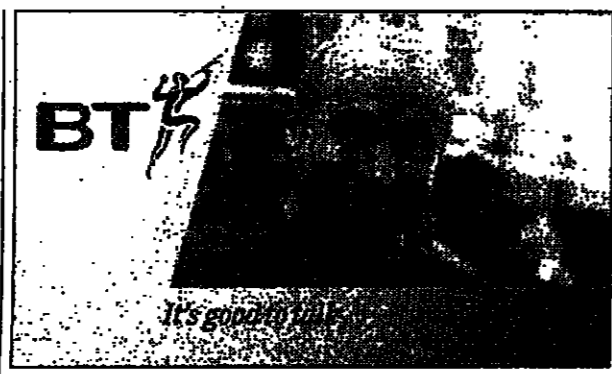


Bob Hoskins in rehearsal for his return to the stage this week in Old Wicked Songs. He will be replaced in the BT television campaign by a team of personalities PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN KYNE

Hoskins finds something to talk about

Dan Gialster Arts Correspondent

THERE'S no such thing as the adage, as it goes to the adage, as it goes to the adage, as it goes to the adage...



The BT campaign voted one of the most irritating on TV replaced in the BT campaign by a team of personalities...

Acts of faith

Age: 54. Born: North London to middle-class parents. The early years: market porter, clerk, trainee accountant, kibbutz.

First film hit: The Long Good Friday (1981). High: Oscar nomination for Mona Lisa. (1986). Low: Starring opposite a cartoon in Who Killed Roger Rabbit? (1989).

prolonged rise in the duration of calls. Alfredo Marcantonio, of the Abbott Mead Vickers agency...

Second minister under scrutiny

Newton asks whip to explain his role in Hamilton investigation

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE cash for questions investigation is to be widened to include a second government minister accused of trying to subvert the initial inquiry into former trade minister Neil Hamilton's undeclared stay at the Ritz Hotel, Paris...

Mr Mitchell - who was then both a government whip and a member of the Members' Interests Committee, then examining Mr Hamilton's conduct - is potentially in serious trouble. He was accused by Angela Eagle, a Labour member of that inquiry, of trying to influence its proceedings.

sent to Richard Ryder, then Chief Whip, showed that Mr Mitchell had used his privileged position on the committee to find out from the Registrar of Members' Interests - where MPs must register directorships and consultancies - whether Mr Hamilton had lodged his controversial consultancy with Strategy Network International, a public relations firm.

Willetts, the Paymaster General, was already struggling to explain a memo he had written to the Chief Whip. He has been accused of trying to smother the inquiry by suggesting that Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the Tory grandee chairing it, could declare the complaint and Justice or use the "aged Tory mastery" to rush it through the proceedings.

Al Fayed vows to win citizenship battle with Government

continued from page 1. which they are entitled and the rule of law must be upheld.

Mr Howard has said he twice insisted that the decision be taken by the then Immigration Minister, Charles Wardle. "They baited it back and forth between them," said Michael Cole, Harrods' spokesman.

Mr Howard has said he twice insisted that the decision be taken by the then Immigration Minister, Charles Wardle. "They baited it back and forth between them," said Michael Cole, Harrods' spokesman.

vice and in line with established practice. The Harrods chairman also raised questions about Mr Howard's "family relationship" with his second cousin, Harold Landy, a close business associate of "Tiny" Rowland and a director of several Lorrho companies.

Rightwinger sacked for gun protest

Even MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TERRY Dicks, the rightwing Tory MP, was sacked by the Government yesterday for his defiant support of the Dunblane parents in their campaign for a total handgun ban.



Terry Dicks... ridiculed Government's position

Rented quotes

On Barnes Healthcare Trust's plans for homosexual health workers to visit gay pick-up points and offer advice on contraception: "Homosexuals are perverts and this is just condoning their perverted behaviour. They should go round with a red hot poker to make sure they never do it again."

On the Equal Opportunities Commission: "A nonsense organisation run by idiots."

On black people: "Generally bone idle; it's about time they were given a good kick in the pants."

On opera: "Overweight Italians singing in their own language."

On the National Anthem: "Turgid, miserable, boring and downbeat."

On ballet dancers: "Men prancing about in ladies' tights."

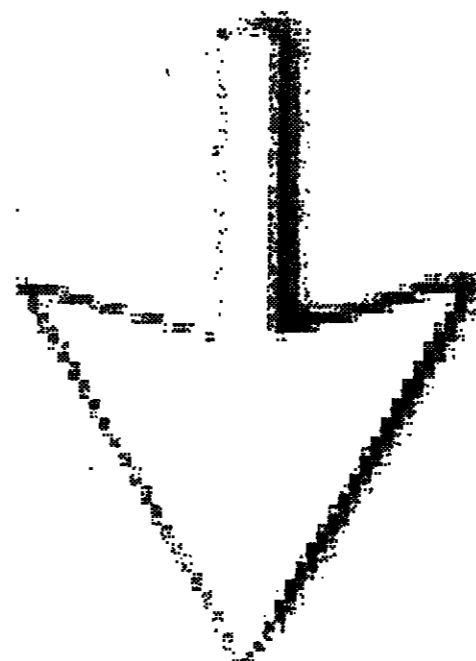
a partial ban goes too far and that gun owners are not being compensated.

Mr Dicks was called in yesterday by Mr Watts, a friend, who had been told by government whips to hand him the ultimatum.

Mr Dicks, aged 59, who is to stand down at the next election, was asked if the sacking marked the end of his political career. He replied: "I didn't know it had started."

He has been outspoken on a series of issues, most recently advocating a return of caning. But since the Hungerford massacre in 1987, he has been calling for a handgun ban.

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France was saved. More than any doings of politicians, any level of deficit or surplus in the economy, it's completely daft things like an inch or two in skirt length which make a nation feel good about itself. Philip Hensher on Yves Saint Laurent

Books G2 page 8

4 BRITAIN

Stalker with 'eerie grin' told to pay her victim £5,000

Luke Harding

A MATURE student who stalked a university lecturer for two years, standing outside his house with an 'eerie fixed grin', was yesterday ordered to pay him £5,000 damages.

A judge ordered Eileen McLardy, aged 29, not to "molest, harass or stalk" Robert Fine, a senior sociology lecturer at Warwick University. She was also instructed not to go within 200 yards of his home in Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, where she had stood daily peering through his windows.

office was broken into twice and a computer was and his car was attacked four times. He had claimed damages for 140 incidents of harassment between 1994 and 1995. Mrs McLardy had denied the allegations and launched her own claim for damages.



Robert Fine... stalked by his student Eileen McLardy

Sir Jocelyn slates modern roofing for destroying 'vernacular heritage'



A traditional stone roof in Derbyshire, of the type English Heritage wants to restore and promote PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFARLANE

ENGLISH Heritage yesterday shouted from the rooftops in defence of traditional stone tiles, riffs David Ward. Standing in a quarry in Derbyshire, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, launched a campaign to promote stone slates, traditional from the Yorkshire Dales to Dorset since Roman times.

News in brief

Police at odds over freemasonry

THE Police Federation is to oppose attempts by senior officers to introduce a register of police freemasons. The federation, which represents officers up to the rank of inspector, has accused the Association of Chief Police Officers of being more interested in being "politically correct" than in protecting the rights of officers.

Prison inspectors in Scotland and England raise problem of serious overcrowding

Drugs swamp remand wing for women

REMAND prisoners at a women's jail in Scotland where there have been five suicides in the past 15 months were plagued by demoralisation and inadequate, existing in a drug-dominated and often degrading environment, inspectors said yesterday.



Cornton Vale... Prisoners variously bored, bullied, distraught, addicted and overcrowded PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MCELROD

Police cells to take overflow of prisoners

PRISONERS are to be held in £300 a night police cells by the end of this week as an emergency measure to cope with the steep rise in the jail population, the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, revealed yesterday.

The director general said 135 jails in England and Wales had "absolute capacity" of 59,000, but the 1,000 places currently spare were at minimum needed. Ten thousand prisoners are shared cells built for one. "If we jump to 59,000 then that figure will increase to 11,000," Tilt said.

Religious adviser in court

A COUNCIL'S religious and moral education adviser yesterday pleaded guilty to exposing himself and performing an indecent act on a main road. No details of the offence by Michael Kincaid, aged 45, were given to Kincaid sheriff court in Fife, and sentence was deferred to December 10 while reports are prepared.

Sport 'can cut reoffending'

PLAYING sport helps stop criminals reoffending, according to research reported tonight on Radio Five's On The Line programme. The two year project, conducted at the University of Sheffield by Peter Taylor, shows that sports counselling, which requires offenders to take part in sport on release from prison, cuts reoffending rates from an expected 64 per cent to 49 per cent.

British aid 'tied to arms'

A SHARP increase in British aid to Indonesia has coincided with arms deals to the Jakarta regime in breach of official guidelines, according to the World Development Movement, a third world pressure group. Aid to Indonesia doubled to more than £50 million in the five years to 1995, the year Britain agreed to supply Alvis armoured vehicles, the movement says in evidence to the National Audit Office.

Hip fractures 'preventable'

THOUSANDS of people fail to get treatment which could prevent hip fractures and other injuries resulting from osteoporosis because of a lack of diagnostic equipment and poor awareness of modern drugs, researchers said yesterday.

Government details NHS vision

THE Government yesterday set out its vision of the future of the health service, amid allegations of electioneering and wasting public money.

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

When doctors or health authorities cannot afford it. The white paper says decisions about priority setting — the Government's term for rationing — will be made more explicit. It says health authorities should not impose blanket bans on particular forms of treatment, but leave it to doctors to decide whether a patient would benefit.

fordable and new methods of providing health care should be looked at. The Government remains committed to the principle of a universal high quality health service available on the basis of need rather than the ability to pay.

Ombudsman criticises hospital after woman's fatal heart attack

A HOSPITAL which left a woman in an accident and emergency department for 10 hours until she died of a heart attack is today criticised by the ombudsman.

Chris Millill

Health Service Commissioner, selected investigations April to September, 1996; HMSO, £18.70.

The National Health Service: A Service with Ambitions; HMSO, £8.25.

Topical, Not Tropical. TROPICAL RAINFORESTS ARE IN THE NEWS - BUT THEY DON'T MAKE THE NEWSPAPERS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION DIAL THE FAX BACK NUMBER 0835 593039

The Guardian The Observer. This multi-purpose bag, subtly headed with the Guardian International and the Observer logo, is made with a black heavy duty poly/canvas and is designed to hold everything you would carry in your attache case.

Party... Labo float to im pare... T... Loner... A... Tories as bec anger... T

Party planning measures from nursery care to curfews

Labour floats plan to improve parenting

Sarah Boseley

THE Labour Party yesterday launched a strategy promising measures from nursery care to curfews and court orders.

Mr Straw cited a 1987 study of 600 children in high crime inner city and rundown urban estates, which found the rate of delinquency where there was lax parental supervision was more than seven times that for families assessed as being strict.



Poor parenting is blamed for casting a shadow of delinquency and juvenile crime over society PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GIBSON

Loner 'murdered woman in lane'

Stuart Miller

A LONER accused of killing a woman blindfolded her in an "impulsive, sudden and farcical" manner — she was walking her dog, Oxford crown court heard yesterday.

last places where you would expect a terrible murder to take place. On August 12 last year — the day after Mrs Thompson and her husband, Jonathan, celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary — she took the family dog for a walk.

She was flown by helicopter to John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford where she later died. Mr Browne said Weston had few if any friends. There was evidence to suggest he had an interest in Mrs Thompson. He was seen staring at her house on one occasion, and was able to give police precise details of when and where he had seen her.

Mr Thompson told the court he had not immediately been alarmed when his wife did not return. "You have to imagine the peace and tranquillity of the village and the safety we felt about this"

War of words keeps Fergie talking on American TV

Martin Walker in Washington

FERGIE, Duchess of York, went on America's top rated confessional TV talk show yesterday for an emotional public catharsis before 30 million viewers.

Playing to American audiences comes naturally to the duchess, who told Diane Sawyer in Prime Time Live that Britain could be an unfriendly place.

Tories look shaky as beef delay angers Ulster MPs

Michael White Political Editor

THE Government was last night forced to pull the stops out to avoid a Commons defeat over its handling of the protracted BSE crisis after the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, failed to reassure Ulster Unionist MPs that the worldwide ban will soon be lifted for Northern Ireland's beef.



Douglas Hogg... challenged by Unionists.

taunted with failure by the shadow foreign secretary, Mr Cook, and challenged by David Trimble, Ian Paisley and other Unionists, Mr Hogg repeatedly conceded that he had not resumed the so-called selective cull of 128,000 vulnerable cattle because there was no guarantee it would produce even a partial lifting of the EU-imposed ban.

Malcolm Bruce, said Scottish farmers were "ready and willing and able to start implementing that cull now as the first phase of the implementation of the agreement."



Friends of the Earth marked the centenary of the repeal of the 'red flag' law with a protest that reduced traffic to a crawl in Leeds yesterday. FoE is backing a private members' bill by Liberal Democrat MP, Don Foster, aimed at cutting road traffic by 5 per cent in 10 years PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN SLEE

Mackay firm on payments crackdown

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

ATTEMPTS by the press to tighten its code restricting payments to witnesses in trials were dismissed as insignificant last night by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

ment was determined to press ahead with legislation to outlaw the practice. A consultation paper from his department, issued after the Rosemary West case when 19 witnesses signed contracts with the media, has recommended a new criminal offence barring payments to witnesses or making it a specific contempt of court.

mons National Heritage committee: "The risk to important cases is sufficient to justify action... If Parliament does not act in this matter it is likely that the practice will become more prevalent."

four significant cases in 40 years and self-regulation was the best approach. The newspaper industry's code of practice has been tightened, putting an onus on editors to prove an overriding public interest and to ensure that prosecution and defence counsel are aware of any payments. But Lord Mackay said: "The changes that have been made do not signal to me a

Government nursery voucher ads 'political' claims Labour

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Government was accused yesterday of using taxpayers' money to win votes when ministers revealed plans for a final wave of television advertisements to promote nursery vouchers in March — just before the election campaign is likely to start.

Children in the current long working hours culture we inhabit, that parental leave in the European model (which is used more by mothers than by fathers) would be a good thing, but duck the issue of treating fathers as of high importance at the time a baby is born. A promise of a modest two weeks' state-paid paternity leave in this paper would have been a good thing.

crowding cells to overflow prisoners

6 WORLD NEWS

Roads blocked as ousted general defies president

Serbs' power feud near boiling point

Julian Borger in Han Pijesak

BOSNIAN Serb political leaders and senior officers were trying to negotiate a compromise yesterday after their struggle for control of the army threatened to escalate into open conflict with a string of tit-for-tat detentions.

Police and interior ministry special troops with assault rifles manned checkpoints on roads leading to the military headquarters in Han Pijesak yesterday to try to prevent officers attending a meeting chaired by General Ratko Mladic — the wartime military leader wanted for war crimes by the United Nations tribunal in The Hague.

The meeting appeared to be a test of strength by Gen Mladic after Biljana Plavcic, the Bosnian Serb president, dismissed him and his staff and called a meeting of senior officers on Monday to back her choice of Major General Pero Colic as army commander.

Most commanders attended both meetings and — according to Serb and Nato sources — are trying to mediate in the hope of avoiding bloodshed.

Nato, which commands a 50,000-strong peacekeeping force in Bosnia, hopes the standoff will lead to the fall of Gen Mladic, indicted twice by the Hague tribunal for genocide and war crimes.

"Mladic has to go, that's clear, and there are a bunch of other generals who could do with retirement," a Nato official in Sarajevo said. He said Gen Colic, previously an obscure and relatively junior officer, may be intended as a transitional figurehead until a compromise figure emerges, possibly from the ranks of the corps commanders.

Until a compromise is found, the standoff between



Police and the army seem likely to continue, Colonel Stankovic said. A Serb military spokesman, said telephone lines from Han Pijesak to other Serb-held towns in Bosnia had been cut. The army, in retaliation, has taken over a television relay station near Zepa, and is blocking broadcasts from Pale, the Bosnian Serb political headquarters.

Sitting beneath several pictures of Gen Mladic in a range of poses, Col Stankovic confirmed that the army had temporarily detained Milan Ninkovic, the defence minister, and Miroslav Vjestica, the deputy prime minister.

The politicians and a number of Serb journalists were stopped on the road from Pale to northern Bosnia and held for 10 hours in Han Pijesak, a small market town in a picturesque mountain setting. The network of bunkers beneath the surrounding hills and forests served as Gen Mladic's wartime headquarters.

Officers loyal to Gen Mladic issued a statement on Tuesday accusing Mrs Plavcic and the interior ministry of a string of hostile acts aimed at undermining the army, including the abduction of officers who they said had been coerced into swearing allegiance to Gen Colic.

The army officers claimed that the interior ministry forces had taken over military installations, where they had been put on combat readiness. The statement accused the interior ministry of "inciting members of the Bosnian Serb army to refuse orders from headquarters and brigade commanders".

It added: "We remind the interior minister of our common bloodshed in five years of war against the enemies of the Serb people, and we appeal to them not to allow the ministry's services and units to lead us into a fratricidal war."

Col Stankovic said the Muslim-led Bosnian army was trying to gain from the Serbs' disarray by advancing into Serb-held land under cover of helping refugees return to their pre-war homes.

International mediators suspended the return of refugees across Bosnia's ethnic boundary yesterday after a clash between a Muslim crowd and Serb police in northern Bosnia on Tuesday, in which one Muslim was killed, and at least four people were wounded. Russian and United States troops separated the two sides, and yesterday prevented 500 Muslims approaching the area to try to resettle there.

Col Stankovic said: "This is a new doctrine — encroaching on our territory under cover of wanting to live together. They know our people don't want to live together so they will always pull back, and they [Muslims] will continue to get more territory. They have taken advantage of our situation and they will continue to do it until there is some kind of solution or a new conflict."

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Naked demonstrators, protesting against the sale of genetically-modified soya beans from the United States, disrupt a news conference by the US agriculture secretary at the World Food Summit in Rome yesterday to demand "The Naked Truth" from him. Environmentalists, led by Greenpeace, are worried that the beans, modified to resist a herbicide, could be a threat to health. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HANNA

'Head on a dead body' asks court to let him die

Adela Gooch in Madrid

RAMON SAMPEDRO, who has been paralysed since a swimming accident 28 years ago, asked a Spanish court yesterday to let him die.

"I am a living head on a dead body," he said, arguing that he had a constitutional right to order his own death.

A 53-year-old former merchant seaman from Galicia in north-west Spain, Mr Sampedro started his legal battle in 1993, and has turned it into a test case on euthanasia.

He has already taken his case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, but it ruled that he must return to the Spanish legal

system, even though one of the country's highest courts, had rejected his case.

He appeared at a local tribunal yesterday, where he lay slumped in a wheelchair — he can only move his head and would need help to commit suicide.

He called on the court "not to punish anyone who helped me to die... I could starve to death, but why should I undergo the further torture of watching away and sinking into coma?"

Judges have been lenient in cases of assisted suicide, but euthanasia remains illegal. Mr Sampedro's lawyers argue that recent reforms of the penal code might allow a different interpretation.

He has written a book on his experiences, entitled *Letters from Hell*, and the case has become a *cause célèbre*.

Spain's Right to Die organisation claims that 60 per cent of the population support the legalisation of euthanasia. But the Roman Catholic Church has strongly resisted moves to change the law.

Luis de Moya, a priest and academic at the University of Navarre who is a quadriplegic, yesterday added his voice. He said Mr Sampedro had much to offer.

"I understand that somebody who has spent so many years bedridden should be depressed," he said. "But given his talents, there is a great deal he could do, especially helping other people in similar circumstances."

He has written a book on his experiences, entitled *Letters from Hell*, and the case has become a *cause célèbre*.

Coal hole on dole seeks a new role

Paul Webster in Paris

AN INTERNATIONAL search is under way to find a use for Europe's biggest unwanted artificial hole — a gigantic open-cast coal mine in Carmaux in the southern French *département* of Tarn.

Opened only 10 years ago, the 700ft deep quarry called La Grande Découverte (the Great Discovery) is about to close after the extraction of 1.2 million tons of coal from what used to be a prominent hill.

Today it is an ugly complex of twisting, temporary roads spread over 2,000 acres. The 240 miners will be made redundant.

Suggestions for the site include a zoo, a car race track and a rubbish dump. Local planners are visiting Noeux les Mines in the Pas-de-Calais to study an artificial ski slope on the 1,000ft abandoned slag heap. But most of Carmaux's 11,000 inhabitants believe the single-industry town faces virtual extinction.

"Coal has been mined here for more than two centuries," Bernard Fraysse, a local shop steward, said. "The opencast mine was opened as a replacement for underground pits which then employed 600 workers — half as many as when coal extraction was at its peak. We were conned into believing there would be permanent jobs when the opencast mine was opened, and I expect we'll be conned again."

The state-run Charbonnages de France wanted to shut down the operation in 1986, but the area is steeped in leftwing folklore, and the Socialist government of the time would not approve the threat to a community closely linked to French Socialism's founder, Jean Jaurès, a former local deputy.

Potential investors have only two months to come up with plans.

Most of France's former heavy industrial sites are already derelict. Exceptions include a Smurfit theme park in Lorraine and an 80,000-seat stadium on the St Denis plain north of Paris for the 1998 football World Cup. If no feasible plan is found for Carmaux before Christmas, La Grande Découverte will be grassed over.

US urges Bosnian factions to work for common good

Reuter in Paris

AMULTINATIONAL conference opening in Paris today is expected to adopt a two-year plan aimed at consolidating the peace in Bosnia with a smaller Nato-led force.

The failure so far of refugees to return to their pre-war homes is regarded as the main problem threatening last year's Dayton

peace treaty, which is to be reviewed at the conference.

Speaking last night before the meeting, the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, urged the Muslim, Croat and Serb members of Bosnia's three-member joint presidency to drop factional rivalries and bring to life the government of their divided state.

Despite elections in September, continuing tension between Muslims, Serbs and Croats has hindered creation of a functioning government for the two-part Bosnian state foreseen by Dayton.

Mr Christopher condemned the clash on Tuesday when at least two Muslim men were killed and two Serbs wounded as Muslims, attempting to return to their homes in Serb-controlled Gajevi, were forced back by Serb police.

World news in brief

Women and children killed in attack on Algerian village

A GROUP of 20 to 25 men killed 12 Algerians, including women and children, yesterday in a raid on a village south of Algiers.

Algerian security forces said: "Among the victims were four women and three children."

The killings in Douar Ben Salah, in the Oued El-Alleug district, were carried out near the scene one week ago of one of the most bloody attacks on a village, attributed to Muslim fundamentalists, in five years of violence.

In a statement on the official Algerian news agency

APS, the security forces said the 12 were "assassinated in a cowardly way" — the term authorities use for civilians killed by having their throats cut.

A security source said: "Those killed were 10 from one family and two other people. Some were killed with knives, others were shot."

People in neighbouring houses said they heard nothing.

The latest killings were carried out only two weeks before a referendum is to be held to change the constitution. — Reuter.

Greek forces to get £1.1bn

GREECE announced a major military spending programme yesterday, saying it was spending almost £1.1 billion on overhauling its armed forces by 2007.

The prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, said that half the money would be spent by 2000 but the programme would not affect Greece's convergence targets for European monetary union.

The money will be spent on buying Awacs planes, 60 fighter jets, tanks, transport helicopters, submarines, warships and air defence systems, and on modernising F4 Phantom jets.

Greece believes it faces a threat from neighbouring Turkey: in January the two almost broke over an inlet in the Eastern Aegean.

Officials said purchases would come mainly from the United States. — Reuter.



Salman Rushdie (above) was welcomed yesterday by the Danish prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, in Copenhagen, where he accepted the European Union's Arlequin literary prize after initially being barred by the Danish government on security grounds. — AP, Denmark. PHOTOGRAPH: BLARKE OERSTED

Rioters rock French Guiana

RIOTS raged in Cayenne, French Guiana, yesterday for a third time in a week. The authorities accused violent groups of trying to destabilise the country.

Riot police fired tear gas at stone-throwing crowds and fought for hours to push them back to the outskirts. Officials said the rioters hurled petrol bombs at the home of the state prosecutor.

The latest violence erupted when a court convicted seven

people arrested during riots last week, in which one person died and at least six were injured, and millions of dollars in damage was done to government buildings.

When the verdict was announced, bands of youths began to overturn dustbins and break shop windows, and tried to charge the courthouse.

Paris has flown in 200 paramilitary riot police reinforcements. — Reuter.

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Boutros-Ghali 'will go with dignity' if vetoed by US

UN chief accepts his time is over

Mark Tran in New York

THE United States will veto a second term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations next week, opening the way for a scramble to find a successor who can reinvigorate the demoralised organisation.

A rumour that Mr Boutros-Ghali might be allowed to stay on for another year is still circulating at the UN, but privately he has admitted to his aides that his days are numbered.

They say he will withdraw his name after the expected veto by the United States rather than jeopardise Africa's chances of holding on to the post.

The Egyptian envoy to the UN, Nabil Elaraby, formally nominated Mr Boutros-Ghali for a second term in a letter yesterday to Nugroho Wisnurmurti, the Indonesian ambassador who is the current president of the Security Council.

The formal vote and America's almost certain veto are expected at a meeting on Monday behind closed doors. "He will withdraw out of a sense of his own dignity and for the good of the UN," a diplomat said.

Once Mr Boutros-Ghali has withdrawn, member states will nominate candidates and a straw poll will be held.



Boutros-Ghali: frightened of scuppering the chances of other African candidates

Britain has not expressed a preference; the US is keeping quiet because its endorsement would scupper any hopeful's chances.

America's stock at the UN has sunk to an all-time low. This week it was soundly rebuked when the General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution calling for the US embargo against Cuba to be lifted.

Britain supported the measure rather than abstaining as it has done since the resolution was introduced five years ago.

Equally humiliating, and even more significant, was the US failure last week to win a seat on a key UN financial committee — the 16-member

her advisory committee on administration and budgetary questions.

This is the first time the US has been voted off the committee and it has hardened American opposition to Mr Boutros-Ghali, even though he had no vote.

"It is proof that we need another secretary-general," a US official said in a leap of logic that escaped most diplomats.

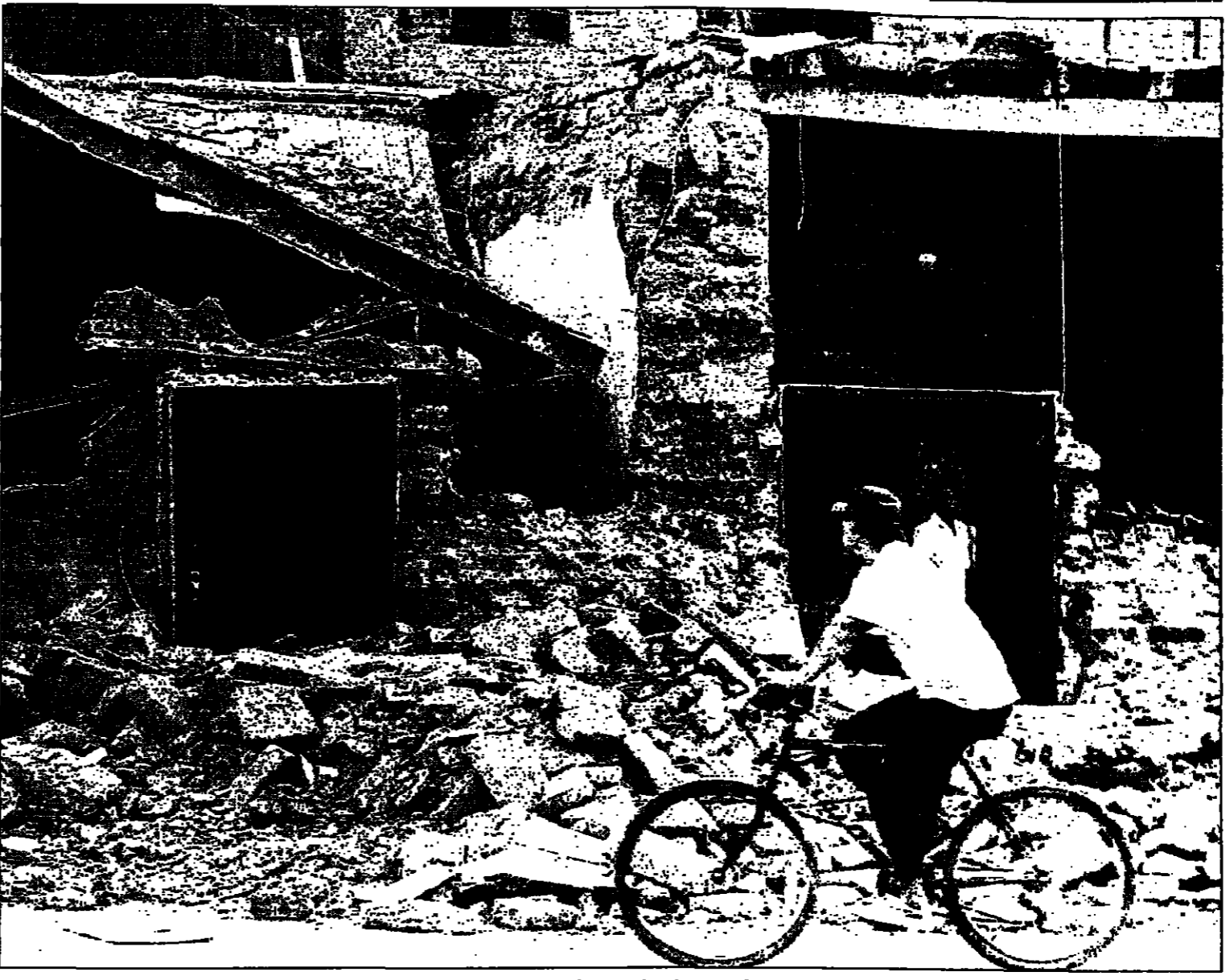
As well as restoring morale at UN headquarters, the new secretary-general will urgently need to mend fences with Washington and win friends on Capitol Hill — a task made harder by recent developments at the UN.

Several women candidates have emerged, including Mary Robinson, the president of Ireland, Gro Harlem Brundtland, until recently prime minister of Norway, and Leticia Shahani, a Philippine senator.

But diplomats believe that an African is more likely to succeed Mr Boutros-Ghali. Kofi Annan, the head of UN peacekeeping, is the leading candidate.

Universally popular, Mr Annan, a Ghanaian, knows his way around the UN and is adept at reconciling different viewpoints.

"He is great at bringing people together, but he may be too much of a compromiser," a UN peacekeeping official said.



Inhabitants of Nazca, 235 miles south-east of Lima, contemplate the destruction in one of the towns worst-hit by an earthquake on Tuesday which killed 15 people and injured up to 700 throughout southern and central Peru

Indian experts study aircraft recorders for clues to crash

Early theories are already being ruled out as the cause of the world's worst mid-air disaster, writes Owen Bowcott

INDIAN aviation experts were listening to recordings of the final words of the Kazakh and Saudi pilots last night in the hope of discovering the cause of the world's worst mid-air collision.

The "black box" flight and cockpit voice recorders from both aircraft were extracted, scorched but intact, from the wreckage of both the Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing-747 and the Kazakh Ilyushin IL-76 freighter. They may explain why the two aircraft collided 50 miles south-west of New Delhi on Tuesday with the loss of 289 lives.

India and the former Soviet states have in the past been criticised for their air safety records. Last night it remained unclear whether the disaster had been caused by pilot or air traffic control error or whether it was due to equipment failure.

Early theories that the Kazakh pilot could not speak English, and that he mistook his height in metres for feet, were being discounted.

"It is clear that the Kazakh pilot knew it was to fly at 15,000ft," Yogesh Chandra, the senior civil servant at the civil aviation ministry, said after transcripts of the control tower's exchanges with the pilots were published.

The Kazakh airline's pilot was also aware the Saudi Arabian airliner was cleared to fly to 14,000ft, and that the distance between them was 1,000ft, which is the standard.

It was also clear, Mr Chandra added, that both planes were aware of each other's approach, especially the Kazakh pilot, who said: "What is the distance now between us?"

"What the pilots did after this exchange of conversation is something that can only come out once the black boxes are decoded."

Criticism was made of the fact that planes landing and taking off from Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport use the same corridor. But Mr Chandra said this was common practice in many countries.

Delays in upgrading the air-

port's radar equipment to provide air traffic controllers with more detailed information, may have contributed to the collision, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association suggested.

There had been three near mid-air collisions during a six-month period in 1994 and 1995, following a surge in air traffic to and from India, it said. "The air corridors in Indian skies are becoming more and more congested."

The government had failed to equip major airports, including New Delhi, with radar transponders which would allow air traffic controllers to track each aircraft's height and speed. Ordinary radar shows only the plane's direction.

A senior flight safety official at the state-owned Indian Airlines said a transponder

had been installed at the Indira Gandhi airport but was not yet operational.

But concern was focused mainly on the airworthiness of the Kazakh plane. The Foreign Office in London advises travellers to the former Soviet republics to "fly directly to your destination on a scheduled flight originating outside Russia". It adds: "It is not known whether aircraft maintenance procedures are always properly observed."

Commercial airliners from nearby Tajikistan are banned by the Department of Transport from entering British airspace.

The head of Russia's air traffic control centre, Robert Urtysev, said the Ilyushin planes did carry collision warning equipment, though some pilots, he conceded, had a habit of switching it off.

Kazakh officials denied claims that the freighter, owned by the deeply indebted Kazakhstan Airlines (Kaz-Air), might be at fault. But it emerged that KazAir's state owners had criticised its safety standards before formally shutting it down in August because of its debts.

Overworked crews and a shortage of cash for maintenance have been blamed for a number of crashes suffered by the new airlines of the former Soviet republics.

The Kazakh jet was at least the fourth fatal Ilyushin-76 crash this year. In April, one crashed on the Russian far eastern Kamchatka peninsula; in June, eight Ukrainian crew perished on take-off at Kinshasa; in August, 10 crew died on a Russian Ilyushin-76 which crashed near Belgrade after reporting mechanical failure.

Painful wait for grieving families

RELATIVES of the Saudi victims of Tuesday's collision spent the day fielding questions from distraught relatives, the official said.

Details of the passengers on Saudi Arabian Airlines flight SV 763 were being faxed to Jeddah airport from India last night.

Relatives of Khalid Baakeel, aged 27, a Saudi steward, first learned of the disaster on television. "Then the airline called us and tried to break it to us gently," his brother said.

The airport official said there were 312 people on the Saudi jumbo, mostly workers from India and Nepal but also two Americans, some Europeans and one Saudi. — Reuter.

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Britain agrees to pitch in in Zaire

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BRTAIN is ready to commit troops to help cope with the humanitarian emergency in Zaire — but not until crucial questions about the mission are clarified, it emerged last night.

Senior ministers left a meeting of the Cabinet's overseas policy and defence committee bolstered by the United States decision to take part in a Canadian-led multinational force but still unclear about its mandate and size.

"Ministers agreed that the UK should be ready to contribute constructively to the international response, including to a multinational force, providing a satisfactory plan can be worked out."

Downing Street said: "We are discussing urgently with other potential contributors the scale and nature of that response." More discussions will be held today.

Contingency planning for brigade-strength deployment is under way but the Ministry of Defence lowered expectations of any imminent movement by insisting that no troops were on standby.

Pot law reformer plans mass production

Christopher Reed
in Los Angeles

A TRIUMPHANT Dennis Peron, architect of the Californian cannabis reform law, plans to grow thousands of plants in warehouses to supply the sick and dying.

He says that the referendum law discriminating the drug for medicinal purposes, which was passed in the November 5 election by a 55-44 per cent majority, makes his Cannabis Buyers' Club in San Francisco a "primary care giver" protected from prosecution if it supplies the cannabis direct.

But the city's district attorney, Terence Hallinan, is not altogether convinced. "I need to know more, but I think that would be prosecuted," he said. "We see the primary care giver as a companion of someone with Aids who goes out in the street and scores an ounce for his friend to use."

The wording of the law is vague. Mr Peron claims that the definition of a care giver as the consistent provider of "housing, health, or safety" to a patient need-

ing cannabis entitles the club to grow what is now recognised in California as a medicinal herb.

For five years it sold cannabis at discount prices to 12,000 patients with the approval of city officials, provided the patients brought identification and a doctor's letter.

"We gave primary care," he declares, "and patients can now assign us."

Yet even Mr Peron's chief ally, David Fratello of Californians for Compassionate Use, says the warehouse plan "lies outside the spirit of the law". The law allows a patient to cultivate small amounts for personal use, he says, "but the matter of large scale supply and distribution has yet to be addressed."

Meanwhile the state's pot farmers are sending this year's crop to market at an asking price of \$5,000 (£3,200) a pound. Their activities are still illegal and under federal law possession and use of any amount of cannabis remains a crime.

The state attorney-general, Dan Lungren, who closed Mr Peron's club last

August and then arrested him, said: "It's a disaster. We have legal anarchy."

Nevertheless, he has not gone to court to challenge the law, as his opponents expected. Mr Fratello believes that the state lacks sufficient legal grounds for a challenge.

But he and others acknowledge that the state legislature should "tidy up" the law in its next session by clarifying some definitions.

The law lists cancer, anorexia, Aids, chronic pain, spasticity, glaucoma, arthritis and migraine as candidates for cannabis treatment with a doctor's recommendation, and adds "any other illness for which marijuana provides relief". Critics say this is too vague and could lead to abuse.

Californian police officers are also confused about applying the law, which became effective as soon as it was passed.

Different forces have received different orders, but nobody claiming medical need has been arrested since election day and at least three pending cases have been dropped.

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Diary
John Duncan

JOHAN Major is a busy man at the moment, what with protecting us from evil Eurocrats who want to rob us of the right to work until we drop with exhaustion and helping his party surf the tide of sleaze. So imagine the surprise of a group of schoolchildren from Palmers Green (the Greensies to rival schools) when their day trip to Westminster and the environs was interrupted by a grey-haired man asking them if they wanted to come and see his house. The Greensies, though, are well-trained kids and never talk to politicians. But yet again our brave youth were let down by their teachers, who dragged them after the grey man and forced them to look round 10 Downing Street with him. Can it be true that the country is being run so effectively from Brussels that Mr Major is now paid merely to be a tourist attraction?

PERHAPS Mr Major was allowing himself a few moments' respite from developing a new initiative on crime? He recently sent a questionnaire to voters in his constituency wanting to know how they think he should tackle the problem. The options offered were: 1. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes [yes, we like them], 2. Victim support [yes, definitely a good idea], 3. More police [can't get enough of them], 4. Burglary [B?] [Is this MIP's much vaunted new role? Will they be asked to steal everyone's video before a criminal gets the chance, thus reducing crime to new record lows? Get me a ballot paper, this is visionary stuff.]

THE Diary may have accidentally discovered the cause of unemployment — nobody is well enough qualified for even the most menial of jobs nowadays. Take this Job Centre advert: "Temp till Xmas: £23 per day: 9am to 5.30pm: Vacancy exists for a graduate (pref with a BA degree) to work in the flower-packing department of one of the largest florists in the country. The person who would feel able to make up bouquets and wrap flower arrangements and who has an empathy with flowers." Quite why you need to study for three years, reject science, cultivate your intellect and develop an empathy for flowers in order to kill them and stick them in polythene for £2.70 an hour, is not immediately clear.

HAVING rumbled unemployment we decided to have a crack at the slump in advertising sales, and we think we have solved that one too. A friend at the Yorkshire Post tells us that a memo has gone round banning staff from setting gas. It has been expunged from all canteen dishes. The reason? Advertising sales people were turning up for sales meetings and losing important clients because of their foul breath. Guardian sales staff survive on bread and water except after making a sale, when they are permitted a small digestive biscuit. A lesson to us all.

THE curse of the cross-reference hit USA today's sports briefs this week. The lesson? Never mix injury news with anything else. "Steve Young, the San Francisco 49ers' noted quarterback, has announced his engagement to a Bay area woman he met last year in Provo, Utah. Young, 35, and Almee Baglietto, 25, plan to be married in the offseason. (Concession makes Young questionable, page 6)"

THIRD instalment of our sensationalisation of the amputee prostitute tale from the Lyme News. "Police found Mr Saville sitting in a car in Holbeach. He was searched and found forged notes in his underpants." Now that's thorough police work. "David Burr-Goffin, for the defence, said Mr Saville was full of remorse." You wouldn't have thought there was any room, what with all that cash in his pants. "Recorder Roy Ashton said: 'Think hard and long about the company you keep.'" And, he might have added, what you store in your underpants when you visit a prostitute.



RIP — an inconvenient Civil Service

Commentary
Hugo Young

MICHAEL Heseltine is the incarnation of corporate man. He believes in the seamlessness of the public and private worlds. Putting these worlds together for the benefit of Great Britain plc is the purpose to which his political life has been most consistently devoted, going back 25 years. Unlike Europe, he has survived as an unchallenged cause through all the ups and downs of his career. To him it is a business imperative, but it has not interfered. The business of the nation, notably in the wind or surrender to the party and the interest of the country as represented by the Government. As Deputy Prime Minister, he is in charge of the co-ordination and presentation of policy. He sits at the centre of the web, a necessary role but one likely, especially as an election approaches, to raise questions about the distance between party and government propaganda.

Earlier in the year Mr Heseltine was questioned about that distance by the Public Service Committee of the House of Commons. In a long rumination about his attitude to governance he conceded there were few rules that categorically determined where

the line should be drawn. It was all a blur, which he alone could clarify. "I just have to have a feel," he said, "based upon some experience of our profession, as to what I can ask civil servants to do, and what I cannot ask them to do." He just knew when things were "moving into a party-political dimension" which would be "embarrassing" for officials, and he knew when to call a halt. Just before that interrogation an episode occurred that shows how difficult such a judgment is. Was the Scott Report a matter of government or party? Hard to say, it was both. It investigated the heart of government, but it had intensely partisan implications, with the life and death of ministers on the line. What is not hard to say is that Whitehall officials, steered by Mr Heseltine, were mobilised behind the most dishonest, deceptive manipulation of official truth in recent times. The minister, as he made copiously clear, thought nothing of it. The politicisation of truth is the stock-in-trade of all politicians, but Mr Heseltine has perfected it more ruthlessly than anyone. As the minister for presentation, he is exasperated by the failure of the people to appreciate the multiple blessings the Government has showered on schools, hospitals, railways, utilities.

SEEKING some counter-voices to the incoherent critics who appear in the Today programme, he hits on the idea of rounding up some political service-providers to deliver a sappy message, and in any hurry to restore them? Rather than pretending a sacred tradition survives we should notice how insidiously it has been eroded, and draw the lessons.

Should transnationals like Shell and BP oppose human-rights abuse in countries where they do business? Geoffrey Chandler argues that they have a duty to their shareholders to do so

People and profits

COMPANIES will go where economic opportunity calls. In many countries — such as China, Nigeria and Colombia — opportunity occurs in the context of gross human-rights violations committed by government or its security forces. Corporate and national interests are more potent influences than moral responses to seek a selective boycott or disinvestment in a world where employment and national wealth depend increasingly on the competitive exploitation of overseas opportunity would be to whittle in the wind or surrender to the least scrupulous. Company influence is limited, but real, and readily wielded for tax or regulatory concessions. If it were used for the improvement of human rights, the world could have a powerful weapon for its betterment and companies a better climate for their investment.

But, say companies, that is not for us. Human rights are domestic politics in which we must not interfere. The business of business is business. Well, is it? The obligations legitimately expected of companies today include care of the physical environment — through this look decades of argument and pressure. Concern for the human-rights environment, however, meets with indifference or evasion. Yet there are arguments of self-interest as well as principle which would cause us to rethink in boardrooms, even if recent reports of Shell in Nigeria and BP in Colombia fail to shake corporate complacency more broadly. Abuse of human rights threatens the stability essential to long-term investment. While such abuse stems usually from government, there are human-rights hazards inherent in a company's own operations posing questions which any thinking company would be wise to answer in advance of encountering them. Will companies abandon their employees arrested for some ill-defined economic crime which may be investigated in China incur the death penalty? Will they buy the products of forced or prison labour? Will they use the army or



police to defend their installations, perhaps trampling human rights? Will they buy arms for their own protection without adopting international norms to avoid misuse? All these things have happened. And if the corporate answer to these questions is 'Yes, how long would companies and their shareholders resist international condemnation and the damage to reputation which would ensue?' In the public mind, profiting under an oppressive regime finds an easy, if unjust, transition to profiting from it. Corporate silence in the context of world condemnation risks being taken by the offending government to be acquiescence in what it does. The arguments of self-interest advanced will grow in force as public opinion and pressure

groups provide a substitute for business leaders' myopia or tunnel vision. The argument of principle — that human rights transcend national boundaries and are not a matter of "domestic politics" or cultural difference — lies in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. THIS calls on every one — individuals and institutions — to "promote respect for" and "secure the recognition and observance of" such rights as freedom from torture and arbitrary arrest, the right to a fair trial and equality before the law. This not only legitimises companies' right to speak out on these matters; it imposes an obligation to do so. A company's freedom to exist and work lies ultimately not in the law, but in the "licence to operate" granted by society. This "licence" broadly represents society's expectations about the manner in which a company carries out its legally permitted activities. The abolition of slavery and of child chimney-sweeps, and the improvement of health and safety at work, were in their day vigorously fought by all but the most enlightened business leaders on the grounds that they would destroy enterprise and prosperity.

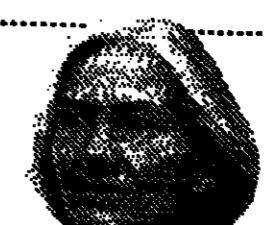
Today the DTI delegates any problems of human rights to the Foreign Office. The Deputy Prime Minister was silent on the issue when leading in May a huge company representation to China. But while government indeed has a role,

A question for you and your maker alone

The upbeat names can still be assembled. But the work must be done, Butler says, by political advisers not civil servants. That is a picaresque distinction. Political advisers are invariably designated temporary civil servants and always work hand-in-glove with the departmental apparatus. The result will be the same, and is part of a process that has gone on for more than a decade: which is not the formal "politicisation" of the Civil Service but what I would call its de-objectivising.

Over many years, officials' role as givers of objective advice and askers of inconvenient questions has been battered into submission. In its place has grown a system and practice of surrender to ministerial imperatives. Despite the follies it has often produced, the pre-eminence of a political project has become the norm to which all classes, whether officials or politicians, are corporately pledged.

Mr Heseltine, caught out by a leak, said the latest episode was an aberration, swiftly corrected. Actually, it is an apotheosis of the politicised world that he, impatient of the slightest opposition, believes is the pre-condition for driving Britain forward. It presents a seductive example to any government, and a Labour cabinet would find it difficult to unpick, even supposing Mr Blair wanted to. And that is the trouble. Once the borderlines have been destroyed, why would a successor government, with its own set of political projects, have any hurry to restore them? Rather than pretending a sacred tradition survives we should notice how insidiously it has been eroded, and draw the lessons.



Isabel Hilton

THE National Statistical Office, busily preparing for the first census of the next millennium, has announced that it is starting testing possible new questions soon. Among the innovations being considered for the census of 2001 is one about religious faith — which by law you would be obliged to answer. It would be a significant step were the religious question to materialise: there has not been a religious census in England and Wales since 1851. If we have lived content for 145 years without knowing how many of us are believers, why, at the end of this secular century, should it be necessary or desirable now? To get a new question included, there has to be a demonstrated need for the information and the question has to be publicly acceptable. When it was first questioned on ethnic identity included in the 1981 census, it was not found to be publicly acceptable — but it was included (though not without debate) in the 1991 census.

So what need would a religious question meet? According to the NSO, the main purpose census data serves is that it helps planners to allocate resources accurately. Private religious belief is not an obvious planning tool. But one working party that has been looking at the desirability of the religious question argues that religious affiliation has a bearing on all manner of practical matters, from the likelihood of teenage drug-taking to the recovery rates from certain illnesses. The religious elderly, for instance, need lower levels of social support than the non-religious elderly; and some insurance companies already give significant weight to the religious variables when calculating risks.

THE case can be over-presented, though. The controversial ethnic question did furnish a mass of statistical data on which immigration and racial-equality policies were then said to have been based. It wasn't until several years later that it was discovered that the data was inaccurate by 100,000 souls, or around 5 per cent. If the answers on ethnic origin can be so far out, why should answers on questions of faith yield statistically useful data? But the idea of the religious question is supported by almost all Britain's religious groups, who are keen to have a head count. And if the gen-

tleman of the cloth are in favour, then why should anyone dissent? The fact is that the prospect of a religious question on a census form that we are all obliged to answer raises goose bumps. It's hard enough that we have just had to suffer having the religious views of politicians rammed down our throats in that recent moral beauty contest. In inquiring about religious beliefs on a government form, an important line is being crossed — the line between legitimate data collection and intrusion into private matters of faith or belief that need concern nobody but oneself and the deity of one's choices. Besides, how useful would such information really be? "That same working party admits that religion is a complex, multidimensional phenomenon. The question 'are you a member of a religious group?' is susceptible to a 'yes/no answer. But the question 'do you have a religious faith?' is not, not least because answering the former questions that give it meaning — 'how strong a faith?' 'what do you do about it?' 'has it always been the same faith?' — they do have it all the time or only on sunny/rainy days" — is not the kind of thing anyone wants to do on a government form. The option "None of your business" is not likely to be there.

AND what about the non-practising but formally subscribed — the lapsed Catholics, the non-practising Jews, the secular Muslims? Are their heads to be counted for sectarian purposes? Are they to exclude themselves on grounds of lack of application or include themselves on grounds of cultural heritage? More than 90 per cent of the people in this country, according to some polls, claim to believe in God, but only 10 per cent say they practice their worship. And that extensive marshland lying between the vaguely professed beliefs of the majority and the serious religious practice of the minority is where the politics of sectarian panic set in. It seems unlikely, now, that the people of this country will revive religious traditions that they have cheerfully let fall.

So why admit the question now? There is clearly some point to it for the religiously minded. The question is always interesting, if you are in the business of influence or laying claim to resources. It might even be of interest to that curious new breed of politicians who want to reinforce their political standing by appealing to the Almighty. But these are vested interests talking. The rest of us, that great non-worshipping majority, have a right to keep our thoughts on religion out of the hands of the Government.

Un petit conseil, M Blair

Memo from Alex Duval Smith to Leader of Opposition: how to avoid putting your foot in it with that nice President Chirac

YOU will arrive tonight in a country deeply ill at ease with the realisation that it is a corner shop in the global village. In your meetings tomorrow with French politicians and business leaders, you would therefore be wise to avoid certain topics.

He trampled on Israeli sensitivities in the Middle East. Next week, he goes to Japan. At every turn he shows himself to be unconvincing. The French won't be fooled. Beset with gloom, they are impatient for a convincing assertion of France's greatness. The National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has realised this and is gaining ground by criticising Europe and the widespread establishment corruption in France. Reactionary he may be, but at least he has polities. Before the 1968 uprising, Le Monde famously carried an article headlined *Le France s'enfuit*. It is full of *enfer* now. Sending this former rightwing interior

minister, Charles Pasqua, last week asserted that France is as fed up with its monarchical presidency as it was with its royalty in 1789. In 1789, there was a revolution. In a land where *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité* are seriously on the line, John Major has unwittingly added fuel to the fire. Last week, before the Franco-German summit, he stated that France (average working week: 39.8 hours) should look to Britain for an example of how an economy should be run. President Chirac and the business leaders you will meet for lunch tomorrow quietly agree: paying the social charges of French employees is just too expensive. But being lectured by the Anglo-Saxons is just too much. So a decree went out and, sure enough, beef-burgers stamped "Made in

England" were found in a fridge at the Hard Rock Cafe. It was closed down. Last weekend, trading-standards officers effectively closed down another place with an un-French-sounding name. At Crazy George's, people who do not usually qualify for credit may take home television sets against weekly payments of £5 — making for very interesting viewing over the three-year hire-purchase period.

France is not especially in an anti-British mood. It is anti anything-which-is-not-French. It is also sensitive about anything French which is not working well, like the economy. Ster clear, therefore, of speaking your mind on Europe, trade unions, the amazing British economy, welfare and corruption. As per normal, in other words.

The Guardian International Umbrella



This large blue and white golfing umbrella features a fox frame and wooden handle. £19.50. Price includes postage, packing and handling charges.

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10 OBITUARIES

Gordon Scarrott

Science of information

WITH more than 10,000 models sold worldwide, and production continuing 30 years after its launch, content addressable file storage (Cafs) has been one of the British computer industry's few commercial successes. It was Gordon Scarrott, who has died aged 80, who conceived and developed the disc store that could be searched "on the fly", independent of the main processor, giving far higher speeds than can be achieved using conventional discs.

He also developed the distributed array processor (DAP), at its launch in 1978 the first massively parallel processor in the world, from designs by his colleague Stuart Reddaway.

Even the earliest model contained 1,000 processors, as fast searching for newspaper clippings in Reuters' vast archives, and image processing for minifield detection in the

American defence department.

Scarrott was a practical computer engineer, and in his retirement a theorist, criticising industry and academia for its failure to recognise and develop an underlying science of information. The day he died he completed *The Purpose and Nature of Information*, which was read last week at an Institution of Electrical Engineers' information science workshop.

He hoped, after 15 years of speaking and writing about his theories, that this workshop, convened at his request and bringing together information experts from microbiology, software engineering, business organisation and public policy, would endorse information science as a valid discipline. The workshop did indeed agree to bring all these strands of information theory together.

Gordon Scarrott was born in Pontnesham, educated at the city's grammar school, but despite his mathematical

ability his father, a tailor, would not let him go to university. Thus did he attend Faraday House College of Electrical Engineering.

With the war he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and served as an instructor at the school of survey, Larkhill. There he worked on the development of sound-ranging instruments to improve artillery efficiency. On Salisbury Plain, he became an inventor.

After the war Sir Laurence Bragg offered him a job at Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory, designing instruments for nuclear physicists. One was a pulse height analyser, developed in collaboration with George Hutchinson. In 1956 they received a Duddell medal from the Physical Society for this invention.

His computer work started in 1963 at Ferranti. He stayed with the company — surviving several mergers — to become manager of ICL's research and advanced development organisation in 1967.



Scarrott... Innovation

Cafs was awarded the British Computer Society Award in 1980, and the Queen's Award for Industry in 1985. Both Cafs and DAP would have been even more successful had not ICL's management in the 1970s been wary of committing itself to machines so different and so far in advance of mainstream technology. The fate of the systems is

Beecher Moore

The trapeze goes to sea

BEECHER Moore, who has died aged 88, was the last surviving member of the crew of Endeavour, Sir Thomas Sopwith's 1934 challenger for the America's Cup. Moore joined the boat as one of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club's volunteers after talks between Sopwith and his professional crew over payments had broken down. Moore also invented the trapeze, which is now part of almost every sailing rig.

"I spent most of my time below decks preparing sails," he said of his Endeavour experience. He would talk of the few weeks of preparation on Shamrock. While the aircraft manufacturer spoke of his wind tunnel testing of sails, Moore found that the boat was run "like a country house in that the gentleman does not go into the kitchen."

Gordon Scarrott, engineer, born May 8, 1916; died October 26, 1996

Don Kenyon

A heavyweight bat

DON KENYON, who has died aged 72, symbolised the best of Worcestershire cricket. He was 14 stone of solid uncomplicated skill as an opening batsman, and earned respect and authority as county captain and later president. His New Road playing career lasted from 1946 until 1967; in that time, he scored more than 37,000 runs and made eight appearances for England. There were 74 centuries from his bat, 19 times he scored 1,000 runs in a season, going on to 2,000 on seven occasions.

And there was something warmly apposite, however abruptly, about the way he died. Worcestershire were celebrating the 25th anniversary of their popular winter cricket evenings. Kenyon had been invited as the special guest and was due to show the cinefilm he had taken while a player on an international tour made by the county. He got to his feet after a rapturous reception, apologised for the quality of the film-making and collapsed. He was taken to hospital where he died.

He was a Staffordshire man with the pragmatic no-nonsense ways nurtured in his Wordsley roots. He was not an extrovert and he didn't go much for idle conversation. Yet he could be a sagacious and kindly companion in the dressing room.

Kenyon loved his family and life at home. Tom Gra-

veney, a team-mate and good friend, went on the 1951-52 MCC tour to India, Pakistan and Ceylon with him. Kenyon, he recalled, was so homesick — his daughter was born during the tour — that it affected his cricket. It was Kenyon who indirectly persuaded Graeveney to join Worcestershire.

As a skipper Kenyon was in control. No one saw him panic or have misgivings, but he was hardly a risk-taker. Staffordshire men didn't play or command with a dramatic flourish. The drama came more by implication in his batting, when he was in a hurry, as he liked to be. He had plenty of shots, played the pull and the hook with some relish, and was happiest of all taking on the fast bowlers. Many of his runs came off the back foot.

If the fast bowlers were from Yorkshire, so much the better. He would admit, with that slow smile of his, that he would like to do well against them. There are many at Kidderminster who remember how he succeeded in 1956 with his 259, laden with handsome attacking strokes in most directions. His shoulders were broad; it was often difficult to set a field on him.

He was not the nimblest of fielders, but before he stationed himself in the obligatory positions for a team captain, he used to hold on to a succession of slashed cuts to



Kenyon in full flow at the Oval in 1967, with Surrey's Arnold Long and Stuart Storey

deepish gully with unfussy reliability. He had once been a footballer and although comfortably built, his reflexes were surprisingly sharp, as careless batsmen were apt to discover.

That he played only eight times for his country must be attributed largely to the presence of Hutton and Washbrook. His Test record hardly bore out his technical skills and challenging blade, though he did take 100 off the Australians at Worcester.

Essentially he was a fine county cricketer. There were more runs and centuries from him than from any other Worcestershire player. He made 589 appearances for the county and led them with a self-effacing pride from 1958 to 1967, during which time they twice won the championship.

For eight years he was a Test selector and from 1966 to 1989 he was Worcestershire's president. Worcestershire committee members remember the potent home-made daisy wine he brought to meetings. Graeveney recalled his unwavering honesty, and a day during the school holidays when he walked past the New Road nets and saw Kenyon bowling — to his grandson. Kenyon leaves his wife, Jean, and two daughters.

Letters

Dave Goodman writes: British International Brigades have a special reason to mourn the death of John Gorman (obituary November 9). He was co-author of *Memorials of the Spanish Civil War*, very much in the style of his *Banner Bright* and published this year by the International Brigade Association to mark the 50th anniversary of the war. With a foreword by Michael Foot it is a beautifully illustrated record of 65 memorials throughout the British Isles dedicated to the men and women who volunteered to fight fascism in Spain.

Professor P D Hobsbaum writes: The scholar and critic Geoffrey Strickland (obituary November 11) was one of a remarkable generation of mid-1950s Cambridge poets along with his near-contemporaries T. S. Eliot, Thom Gunn and Peter Redgrove. Like them, he figured in the Cambridge magazine *Chequer*, and in Cambridge Poetry 1954, edited by Karl Miller. Unlike them, he never published a collection but he continued to write poems, as has been said, "reflecting his sensitive and deep-thinking personality". One can only hope that a way will be found for these poems to be brought together in a definitive edition.

John Pilgrim writes: The poet Sidddi El Nigoumi (obituary October 28) was a pervasive influence on students and a technical revolution. It was his introduction of African and Arab techniques into British poetry that created the now fashionable practice of burnishing and caroling, instead of glazing to achieve the wondrously rich browns, blacks and blues that he used himself. He invented the making of stoneware moulded dishes and managed the extraordi-

Paula Hinton

Creative roles of a dancing muse

PAULA Hinton, who has died aged 72, was the supreme dramatic ballerina of her generation of British dancers and the creator of many roles in ballets by her husband, the choreographer Walter Gore.

Born in Birkenhead, she joined Ballet Rambert in 1944 and remained with that company until 1950. In Australia, during the company's artistically brilliant, if financially disastrous 1949-50 tour, she created her first major role, dancing, prophetically, with Sally Gilmore and Walter Gore in his ballet *Winter Night*, which was first staged in Melbourne and told of an old love discarded for a new

one else, and bring a pillow, some blankets, an air mattress, and an alarm clock. Wear your pajamas. Lie down on the air mattress with the pillow and the blankets and act like you're asleep. Have the alarm set for about two minutes into class. When it goes off, preferably very loudly, hit the " snooze " button and go back to sleep. Keep doing so for the duration of the class.

4. Show up to class about 10 minutes late. Ride into the room on a bicycle, yell, "Look out! I've crashed into the blackboard. Get up, take a seat, and act like nothing happened."

5. Wrap yourself in bandages and come to class in a wheelchair. Throughout class, cry a lot and moan things like, "Why me?" and "Please kill me!" Get up during class, like you're going to miraculously start walking. Instead, fall down, cry out in pain, and wait for someone to help you back up.

6. Bring a vacuum to class. Halfway through class, stand up and start using it. If your professor objects, explain that you "can't stand sitting in this

England, home to Birkenhead, in 1972, and she made a tremendous comeback dancing *Night and Silence* with Northern Dance Theatre — now Northern Ballet Theatre. Walter Gore died in 1979 and, although Hinton made valiant efforts to keep his ballets alive, the strain and the loss of Wally, from which she never really recovered, took their toll. Her last years were spent in virtual seclusion from the dance world, which now mourns the loss of a great artist.

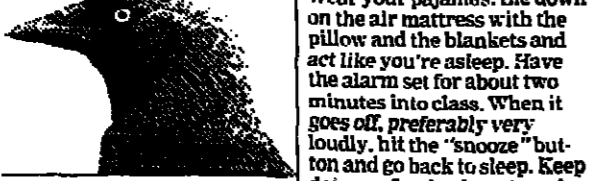
Mary Clarke

Paula Hinton, dancer, born June 1, 1924; died November 5, 1996

Birthdays

Charles, Prince of Wales, 65; Dr Bontros Bontros-Ghail, UN Secretary-General, 74; Quentin Crewe, writer, restaurateur, 70; Paul Dacre, editor, Daily Mail, 48; Letitia Dean, actress, 28; Michael Deobis, novelist, 47; David Elstein, chief executive, Channel 5, 52; Stefano Gabana, fashion designer, 33; Freddie Garrity, pop singer, 54; Natalis Gutman, cellist, 54; Bernard Hmanit, cyclist, Tour de France winner, 42; King Hussein of Jordan, 61; Peter Katin, concert pianist, 66; Mark LeFanu, secretary, Society of Authors, 50; Shazia Marks, Professor of Commonwealth History, University of London, 57; Sarah Radcliffe, film producer, 46; David Shaw, Conservative MP, 46; Koji Tatsumo, fashion designer, 33; Chris Woods, footballer, 37.

Jackdaw



1. BRUSH your teeth during class. While doing so, raise your hand as if you have a question, and mumble your question incoherently while brushing, spewing toothpaste all over the place. If your professor objects to your actions, go on a tirade about proper oral hygiene.

2. Sit way at the back of the room, up against the wall, to get as far away from your professor as possible. While he/she is lecturing, shout out things like, "What?" and "Speak up! You're mumbling!"

3. If you have an early morning class, get there before any-

President Clinton announced US plans to deploy over 75,000 troops to the war-torn region of Bosnia. The deployment, the largest of its kind in American history, will provide the region with the critically needed letters A, E, I, O and U, and is hoped to render countless Bosnian names more pronounceable. "For six years, we have stood by while names like Ygrjvald and Zylryn and Glim have been horribly butchered by millions around the world," Clinton said.

"Today, the United States must finally stand up and say: 'Enough!' The deployment, dubbed Operation Vowel, Stomped by the State Department, is set for early next week, with the Adriatic port cities of Sjlbdnzv and Grzny slated to be the first recipients. Two C-130 transport planes, each carrying over 500 34-count boxes of "E's," will fly from Andrews Air Force Base across the Atlantic and aldrop the letters over the cities.

Citizens of Grzny and Sjlbdnzv eagerly await the arrival of the vowels. "My God, I do not think we can last

another day." Trzsg Gradjkn, 44, said. "I have six children and none of them has a name that is understandable to me or to anyone else. Mr Clinton, please send my poor, wretched family just one E."

Thanks to Mark Weston. From the *Humour Listener*.

Happy hogs

IT'S POST TIME, ladies and gents. The thoroughbreds are a bit fidgety in their starting gates anxious to begin the race. After a bit of anticipatory build-up, the starting bell sounds, the gates fly open, someone shouts, "And they're off!" and the well-trained animals bolt out into the track, a blur of beast and soiled, gray numbers. The overflow crowd goes berserk as the racers gallop down the opening straightway, nimbly jump a pair of hurdles along the backstretch, and jostle for position along the final turn.

Just another day at the races. Except, of course, it's pigs.

The daily series of pig races — featuring two heats of piglet quarters dashing around a

150-foot sawdust track four times daily — was by far the most popular attraction of the entire Expo.

To get the competitors properly prepared for each race, a handler refilled their cages; an Orco waited at the finish line as incentive for straggling swine. Unfortunately, by the Expo's third day the little porkeys appeared to be pooped — most had slowed to a brisk walk before they languidly stepped over the hurdles. The audience, most members of which didn't look ready for anything more aerobic than a brisk walk themselves, didn't seem to mind.

Just one of the attractions at the annual World Pig Expo held this year in Iowa, where hog conventioners were treated to a wide array of pig-and-pork-related entertainment. Reported in *Spy* magazine.

Gift of tongues

J. BIDDULPH: Guide to Visigothic. The Gothic language (known as Visigothic in Iberia) is the curious earliest written Germanic tongue. Joseph Biddulph: Roots — A Mandingo Grammar. Mandingo — otherwise Malinka, Maninka, Malinke, Bambara, etc. — represents a series of dialects widespread in West Africa, the non-class, non-inflected tongue of the medieval Mali empire. Joseph Biddulph: Fernandian. The Bubi Bantu Language of Ilaco (Porondo Po. Africa Houses of Stone. The Language of Monomo-

Teacher torture

one else, and bring a pillow, some blankets, an air mattress, and an alarm clock. Wear your pajamas. Lie down on the air mattress with the pillow and the blankets and act like you're asleep. Have the alarm set for about two minutes into class. When it goes off, preferably very loudly, hit the " snooze " button and go back to sleep. Keep doing so for the duration of the class.

Vowel war

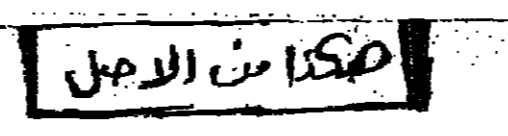
CLINTON DEPLOYS vowels to Bosnia: Cities of Sjlbdnzv, Grzny to be First Recipients. Before an emergency joint session of Congress yesterday,

Happy hogs

IT'S POST TIME, ladies and gents. The thoroughbreds are a bit fidgety in their starting gates anxious to begin the race. After a bit of anticipatory build-up, the starting bell sounds, the gates fly open, someone shouts, "And they're off!" and the well-trained animals bolt out into the track, a blur of beast and soiled, gray numbers. The overflow crowd goes berserk as the racers gallop down the opening straightway, nimbly jump a pair of hurdles along the backstretch, and jostle for position along the final turn.

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Finance Guardian

Halifax ends mortgage war

Larry Elliott and Simon Read

BRITAIN'S biggest building society, the Halifax, today launched a pre-emptive strike against a 1996-style housing-market boom when it raised the cost of its fixed rate, discount and cashback mortgages.

Amid growing evidence that the authorities are becoming concerned about the prospect of a fresh burst of property inflation, the country's largest mortgage lender announced hefty rises in the cost of some of its home-loan packages.

Mike Blackburn, the society's chief executive, said: "With the continued recovery in the housing market and the recent bank base rate rise we are positioning our mortgage rate at a sensible level to avoid over-stimulation of the market."

"This should be the position of any responsible lender to ensure the boom-bust cycle

Pound hits highest level against dollar in four years

Simon Kennedy and Larry Elliott

CITY fears of a further rise in interest rates sent the pound surging to its highest level against the dollar for more than four years on the foreign exchange markets last night.

News of a bigger than expected fall in the official jobless total and evidence that the Bank of England is growing increasingly concerned about the outlook for inflation sent investors piling into sterling.

It closed in London at \$1.6542, a level not seen since October 1992, the

month after Black Wednesday. On Wall Street the pound was changing hands at around DM2.50 against the German mark.

Simon Briscoe, economist with Japanese securities firm Nikko, said the markets were braced for a half-point rise in interest rates at the next meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Bank of England governor, Eddie George, and a 1.5 percentage point jump in the next 12 months. "This is one of those periods when it is best if economists keep out of the way because it is hard to explain market sentiment. The markets seem to have gone bonkers."

Mr Briscoe said demand from overseas investors had helped to boost the pound because prospective US interest rates looked attractive in comparison with other global markets.

The sharp increase came as the minutes from the late September meeting between the Chancellor and the governor showed Mr George pressing for a rise in base rates, to 6 per cent, a month before the increase actually happened. The minutes reveal that the governor pointed to the strength of demand and warned Mr Clarke that a delay in tightening monetary policy might mean an even bigger increase in base rates at a later stage.

Halifax raised its forecast to 5 per cent in the summer and to 7 per cent once the October data had come in.

Its economists are expecting a similar increase in 1997, although that is considered to be pessimistic by some analysts, who are looking for a double-digit rise next year.

The Bank of England has for some time been expressing concern about the willingness of lenders to offer cut-price packages to home-loan borrowers, and has been pointing recently to the pick-up in both prices and transaction levels.

Although the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, would welcome the recovery in house prices at a time when the Government is lagging well behind Labour in the opinion polls, the authorities are determined that there should be no repeat of the Lawson boom.

House prices rose by 23 per cent in 1989 and a further 20 per cent in 1990 before corrective action by the Government triggered the crash of the early 1990s.

No saving grace for pension firms



Edited by Alex Brummer

AT LONG last the City regulators have designed to tell the public about the progress made in resolving the calamity visited on some half-a-million savers — with the connivance of the Government — to switch from occupational pension schemes to private pension plans.

It does not make for pleasant reading. Instead of resolving the majority of cases by the end of this year the Securities & Investments Board has extended the deadline for a further 12 months and waffled on about the review being "unacceptably slow" as if it were nothing to do with the board, or the Personal Investment Authority, charged with sorting out the mess.

When the late Robert Maxwell raided the pension funds of the companies in his empire, the regulator responsible described the events as a freak storm. The general assumption was that, however intrusive the regulation, it would never be robust enough to stand up to a swindler of Maxwell's guile. But the regulatory system even seems incapable of dealing with the steady drizzle represented by the pensions mis-selling scandal.

This was nothing to do with lone nuts, the City's favourite scapegoats.

It was wholesale abuse of the public's trust in some of the grandest names in the pensions business and independent financial advisers, and the failure of the regulation system set up under the terms of the 1986 Financial Services Act.

The size of the potential shortfall is enormous. With redresses offered in 6,227 cases out of 24,337 examined, the cost is £48.9 million. If these figures are a guide, the potential bill for the financial services industry, as it seeks to put matters right, will be upwards of \$1 billion.

There are no saints here. The regulators let down the people persuaded to switch out of perfectly good pension schemes. They have now compounded the error by missing all deadlines to resolve the issue.

The Government must share the blame. It promoted the virtues of switching to private pension plans, when it was always the case that those who moved out of well funded occupational schemes would be worse off. But the industry must also accept its share of responsibility. It was this accompanied by a cautionary message from Halifax chief Mike Blackburn that the housing market is starting to look frothy.

The words could have come from Bank Governor Eddie George himself.

advantages of switching out, and those same schemes have been slow to come forward with the detailed financial information needed for restitution. There is perhaps no better example of how the distorted Thatcherite morality of self-first destroyed the confidence and integrity of the savings industry.

Lang's lament

SEVERAL months to the selection and Ian Lang will be worried. The privatised utilities will be an acute political embarrassment whatever the trade and industry secretary does.

The gas and electricity markets are pulling in different directions so sharply that the DTI has had to set aside its own credo and sanction the rigging of the system simply to keep the lights on this winter.

Big industry, and maybe smaller consumers, will be left to pick up the tab for this secret exercise.

His own deputy, former energy and industry minister Tim Eggar, is compounding Mr Lang's problems by backing reform of regulation and suggesting restructuring of the electricity industry is inevitable.

With takeover bids from two US utilities for regional electricity companies, Mr Lang ought, on past form, to wave the bids through.

Ownership does not matter in theory, and the US groups will point to BT's takeover of MCI as evidence of bids moving in the opposite direction.

But the political temptation to block the takeovers is strong. The City is registering as much by marking East Midlands and Northern shares well below their respective offer prices.

The embarrassment of a U-turn in government policy is cheap against the perils of "fat cat" payoffs and foreign ownership of vital power supplies.

A global telecoms group is logical, but running an English regional electricity company from Virginia or Nebraska is not.

'Double dividend' raises hackles • Virginians to pay £1.3bn



Dominion chairman Tom Capps and East Midlands chairman Sir Nigel Rudd yesterday after the takeover was agreed

Big electricity users attack power price fix

Simon Beech, Industrial Editor

A GOVERNMENT-backed scheme to keep the lights on this winter by fixing the privatised electricity market was last night attacked by big users as a licence for power companies to raise prices and "gamble" on the gas and electricity markets.

The Energy Intensive Users Group — representing some of the country's largest industrial firms — made the allegations in a stinging letter to the electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild.

The EIUG warned that the scheme, which compensates generators forced to switch to expensive fuels during high demand, could "cause price hikes without improving system security, as well as encouraging generators to game" in the electricity and

gas markets. The group's complaints centre on emergency measures drawn up by the executive of the electricity pool last month under strong pressure from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The DTI was desperate to ensure that there was no repeat of problems seen last winter when the national grid came close to collapse on several occasions. In July, officials asked the pool executive to come up with solutions for this winter.

Industry sources suggest the Government is keen to avoid embarrassing energy disruptions while its experiments with liberalising energy markets are under intense scrutiny ahead of the election. One source said the measures were an indication of the growing problems of "balancing the demands of the gas and electricity energy markets".

Last night, pool executives

insisted that the new system would not allow power generators to profiteer and said that the measures were unlikely to be invoked often.

The new system compensates generators using gas by allowing them to charge higher prices whenever they are forced to switch to more expensive fuels. Last winter, the grid came close to collapse when gas stations on interruptible contracts were forced to shut down at periods of peak gas demand. The new rules are supposed to be an incentive for the stations to keep running even though the cost of using oil or propane is much higher.

But the EIUG says there is nothing to stop the generators selling their gas to the gas market and charging higher prices to use alternative fuels, allowing them to earn what it called a "double dividend".

In a letter to Prof Littlechild, the EIUG's chairman

Ian Blakey, said the measures had been "hoddled through". He claimed the generators had blocked other ways of maintaining supplies "in their own interests".

The rules cannot be stopped by the regulator unless there is a formal appeal by one of the pool executive members. The EIUG letter does not constitute an appeal.

Dr Brian Saunders, director of trading of the pool, conceded there was nothing in the new rules to stop arbitrage. But he said the executive would stop the system if arbitrage trades were seen as a "prime motive".

The measures were a short-term arrangement for this winter. More sophisticated changes were already being looked at. "We were under some pressure from the DTI and the regulator to get something in place to stop the lights going out. We've done the best we can," he said.

East Midlands succumbs to US dominion

Chris Barrie, Business Correspondent

EAST MIDLANDS Electricity looks likely to be the fifth regional electricity company to fall into American hands after it decided to buy a hostile £760 million bid from Nebraska-based CalEnergy, there could soon be only three independent regional electricity companies left.

Shares in East Midlands rose 13p to close at 629p, well below the offer price as the market decided the Trade Secretary, Ian Lang, could block the US bids. Northern shares ended 15.5p down at 690p.

Mr Capps said there were no grounds for blocking the bid. He was to speak with the industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild, yesterday to assure him that East Midlands would be ring-fenced to safeguard its finances.

Shadow energy minister John Battle pledged that Labour would ensure profits made by the electricity companies were published. It would ensure that "tough, efficient regulation" was enforced.

Mr Capps held out the prospect of stepping up East Midlands' plans to sell gas when the market opens up in 1998. Dominion would also look at establishing financial services in the UK.

East Midlands executive directors are likely to stay, though Sir Nigel, a non-executive, will leave.

X marks the spot

THE substantial drop in unemployment, which could be down to two million by the new year, will be a cause for satisfaction for the newly employed as well as the government. But on the markets it is having less laudable effects.

The pound is growing stronger, potentially damaging Britain's export prospects and the trend in interest rates is unmistakably upwards.

After the Nationwide's decision to add 0.25 of a point to its basic mortgage rate, sending it up to 6.74 per cent, the Halifax has followed through with dramatic increases on its five-year and discounted variable rate mortgages.

This is accompanied by a cautionary message from Halifax chief Mike Blackburn that the housing market is starting to look frothy.

The words could have come from Bank Governor Eddie George himself.

News in brief

Brewers want beer duty cut
A Budget submission by the brewers argued last night that cutting 6p off the price of a pint of beer would produce a healthy economic mixture of lower inflation, more jobs and — in time — a boost to government revenue. Sales have fallen by 13 per cent since 1979, according to a report for the Brewers' and Licensed Retailers' Association, which blamed rises in beer duty and the creation of the single market.

BA link-up inquiry
The European Commission has started a formal investigation into the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. The EU's

Setback for CU
Bad weather has taken its toll on Commercial Union, the Britain's largest composite insurer. Pre-tax profits for the nine months to the end of September were 3.6 per cent up on last year, at £457 million, but operating profits sank 9 per cent to £248 million. The company's life business performed well but was undermined by winter storms which cost it \$82 million more than last year.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.029	France 6.13	Italy 2.458	Singapore 2.25
Austria 16.98	Germany 2.41	Malta 0.57	South Africa 7.45
Belgium 49.25	Greece 364.00	Netherlands 2.20	Spain 203.00
Canada 2.17	Hong Kong 12.43	New Zealand 2.25	Sweden 10.77
Cyprus 0.73	India 58.78	Norway 10.16	Switzerland 2.02
Denmark 9.30	Ireland 0.9690	Portugal 245.00	Turkey 158.844
Finland 1.42	Israel 5.33	Saudi Arabia 6.14	USA 1.6120

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Eggar backs new utility controls

Celia Weston, Industrial Correspondent

FORMER energy minister Tim Eggar yesterday called for a radical overhaul of utility regulation only weeks after resigning as minister responsible for the regime under which the privatised gas and electricity industries operate.

Giving evidence to the Commons trade and industry select committee, Mr Eggar also appeared to contradict government energy policy

against vertical integration in the electricity industry.

Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has vetoed National Power and PowerGen, the two electricity generating companies, from taking over any of the original 12 regional companies.

In a clear departure from the office, Mr Eggar called for the creation of a new select committee on regulated industries, with a small permanent specialist staff along the lines of the public accounts committee.

He also told MPs that regulators should remain truly independent, that consultation with consumers should be improved and that a wide-reaching review of competition law should be instigated to clarify the roles of regulators, the Trade and Industry Secretary and the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Eggar, who has just become chairman of MW Kellogg, an oil industry equipment supplier, argued that six or seven electricity suppliers were the minimum number needed to secure genuine

competition — a figure which could be achieved through takeovers and mergers.

PowerGen's chairman, Ed Wallis, has long argued that five or six vertically integrated companies will eventually run the UK electricity industry.

Mr Lang has waved through most electricity takeovers but blocked PowerGen's takeover of Midlands Electricity and National Power's bid for Southern.

Mr Eggar said everyone had underestimated the problems of privatisation.

Dogged determination



Labour's education spokesman David Blunkett and visually impaired businessman Tom Poy (left) — accompanied by their guide dogs — yesterday helped host a parliamentary seminar on helping blind people find secure employment, with the slogan "Out of sight — Out of Work?"

Vultures circle the Hambro bluebloods

Outlook

Patrick Donovan

HAMBROS, the merchant bank, will have to do a lot better than promise just tomorrow if it is to wriggle out of the talons of predatory "vulture fund", Regent Pacific.

Earlier this autumn the Hong-Kong based investor was widely criticised when it demanded a Hambros shake-up on the back of its recently acquired 3 per cent holding. But, yesterday, many in the market were rapidly coming around to Regent's line of thinking as Hambros failed to meet the most pessimistic market forecasts with its latest set of financial results.

which remains the main focus of investor concern. Even though provisions for bad debts have tumbled by £17.6 million to £3.9 million, operating income within the banking division has actually fallen by more than £10 million to £2.5 million. The bank claims that a downturn is inevitable as it is in the process of restructuring its corporate lending book.

It is slowly shedding no-frills ("plain-vanilla" in banking jargon) corporate lending and building up clients who want more complicated higher-margin business. Hambros would have been in a stronger position with shareholders if it had increased the dividend rather than maintaining it at 2.5p. And despite Lord Hambro handing over chairmanship to Sir Chips Keswick, there are still questions about the long term management.

As one of the City's few remaining independent merchant banks, Hambros is still finding a lucrative niche in a market increasingly dominated by big international banking conglomerates.

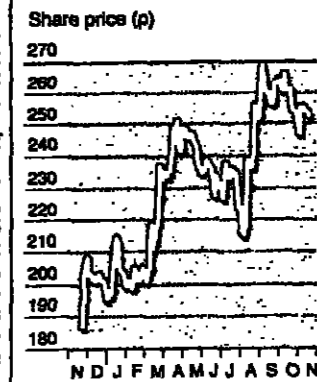
To be fair, Hambros had already acknowledged the need to restructure long before Regent launched its attack. But for all the allowances the market is making for Hambros to realign the business, the 7.5p fall in shares to 245p underlines the growing dissatisfaction at the time it is talking to generate results.

Overall, the group may have transformed last year's £7.7 million loss into a £35 million profit for the half year to September 30. But the turnaround came from an upturn in its estate agency business. Improvements in the property market pushed last time's £5.8 million loss at Hambro Countrywide into a £10.5 million profit.

The trickle-down effect of greater mortgage and other financial product sales saw Hambro Insurance Services improve £1.5 million to £4.5 million. The core investment division, too, boosted profits from £3.9 million to £2.9 million. But these upturns masked the continued lacklustre performance of the underlying banking business

But there must be plenty of other predators running their silders over one of the last surviving independent merchant banks in the City.

Hambros



Mis-selling payouts could top £1bn, but thousands of victims face 12-month wait

Action to speed pension redress

Richard Miles

HUNDREDS of thousands of people duped into leaving company pension schemes for a personal pension must wait another 12 months for redress. City watchdogs admitted yesterday.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief financial regulator, announced new measures to speed up the review of mis-sold personal pensions — now in its third year — saying progress had been "unacceptably slow".

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, published figures yesterday which suggest the compensation bill for the scandal may top £1 billion, with payouts averaging just over £2,000.

SIB's chairman, Sir Andrew Large, blamed the review's slow progress on the

"unduly elaborate" forms used by insurance companies and financial advisers to identify clients who may have been mis-sold a personal pension.

They were so complicated that many occupational schemes were unable to cope with the volume of data. This delayed the reinstatement of former members to their former schemes, the method of redress preferred by SIB.

To remove this obstacle, SIB yesterday issued guidance that slashes the number of questions occupational schemes must answer from more than 200 to fewer than eight. Several of the biggest public sector schemes have also agreed to pool information for a "one-stop" library.

Mr Large said this and other measures should ensure "a substantial proportion" of the 600,000 victims identified as priority cases, would be offered redress during 1997, but it was impossible to guaran-

tee that all victims would be compensated by the end of the decade.

"Investors who were mis-sold personal pensions and suffered loss are entitled to redress, and we are determined that they will get it. All those firms with a sense of responsibility will now be able to carry out most of their case reviews without further delays," he said.

As many as 1.5 million people may have been

Work in Progress

Total cases identified	519,179
Priority cases identified	446,030
Number of assessments completed	24,237
Cases where redress has been offered	6,227
Cases where redress has been accepted	3,983
Amount of redress offered	£49.9m
Amount of redress paid (gross)	£36.3m

wrongly advised by unscrupulous insurance salesmen to leave a generous company pension scheme for a personal pension. Many are nurses, teachers, miners and other public sector workers.

But figures released by the PIA yesterday show only 5 per cent of 400,000 cases initially identified as a priority have been fully reviewed, even though the misselling scandal was first disclosed three years ago.

The PIA statistics reveal that only 549.9 million has been offered in compensation to 6,227 investors. Of this just 398.3 million has been paid to 3,983 people. Assuming these figures are representative of the full scale of the problem, the life insurance industry could face a total compensation bill of about £1 billion.

The 4,000 firms taking part in the review will be required to dispatch another questionnaire to about 600,000 clients asking for more information.

If the response proves poor, SIB and the PIA may take out advertisements calling on people to come forward.

Yesterday, Mr Large warned the firms that if they continued "dragging their feet", they would face disciplinary action, which might include fines. Four leading brokers have been fined a total of £405,000 by another

watchdog, Imro, for their compliance failures in the sale of personal pensions.

The National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of British Insurers welcomed the move, but Unison, the public sector union, called on the Government to "force the companies to reach settlements without further delay".

Eurostar opens up the regions

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

EUROSTAR trains are expected to start running to mainland Europe from Manchester and Birmingham next Easter, it was announced yesterday.

Eurostar's commercial director, Ian Brooks, said the trains would avoid central London, passing through west London on their way to the Channel tunnel. The Manchester and Birmingham services will be joined by a service on the east coast main line later in the year.

Delays on their introduction has been due to adapting

Eurostar trains to existing track. The tests are being run by Railtrack and are expected to be completed this year. But the service will not start until the holiday season because Eurostar believes that the bulk of regional take-up will be by the leisure traveller.

Senior executives from London and Continental Railways, which operates Eurostar and whose investors include Virgin and National Express, stressed their confidence yesterday that the service would carry more than 10 million passengers annually within two years. This is the figure Eurostar must be achieving consistently before LCR is floated, which the

company hopes will take place in 1998.

Separately, Richard Branson's Virgin company yesterday emerged as the preferred bidder for part of British Rail's rapidly disappearing passenger network. The new rail franchise director, John O'Brien, is prepared to allow Mr Branson to run Cross-Country, a variety of express services, linking a number of cities in England, Scotland and Wales.

The hub of the Cross-Country network is Birmingham, with services operating to Manchester, Reading and Bristol. It also operates a number of long-distance through trains from Glasgow

to Bournemouth and from Dundee to Penzance.

The network serves more than 100 stations, and its passenger revenue up to March was £108 million, but it makes substantial losses and will need a large subsidy from the franchise director.

This would be Mr Branson's first rail franchise, if the bid succeeds. He has already shown an interest in the newly privatised railway, and narrowly failed to obtain the Gatwick Express franchise.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

PPRIVATE Rail had its grovel all fixed up and ready to roll Monday morning after CBI chief Adair Turner's much-publicised 180 Saturday taxi ride from Newark to the Sunmen's get-together in Harrogate, a journey occasioned by vandal-induced delays to the train upon which he had planned to travel to the Yorkshire spa. True to the ghost of British Rail, the East Coast route's new owners did not offer to pay the CBI director-general's cab fare, but did present him with a complimentary first-class ticket on the very same market-driven London-Harrogate Iron Horse Mr Turner had found so unsatisfactory. A fat lot of use this is: next year's CBI get-together is in Birmingham.

BLACKMAIL is such an ugly word... The Office of National Statistics seems to be a genuine little squeeze-artist of its own in its brand new Charter, in which it promises to pester businesses for data

no more than necessary (a by-product of the construction of the exhortation to judges a few years back only to jail in cases where a jail sentence was justified). Furthermore, the ONS tempts small firms with a pledge that, provided they take part in the next survey, they will be left alone for three years. And if they don't?

FROM the front line of the Lord Mayor's show on Sunday, we report that just about every float, from the Halifax's to that of the Civil Aviation Authority, pledged to "make Britain even greater". Splendid news, especially as these promises were backed by the mailed fist of recondite City TA units with long names (London Tropical Warfare Rgt, Royal Field Corps). Best float: London Transport (a whole Tube train). Biggest cheer: the ex-servicemen. Out-of-Town champs: Hastings Economic Development Co. PS Did HM Customs have to parade brandishing a huge banner carrying the anti-smuggling hotline number?

ASIF Ali Zardari, Benazir Bhutto's hubble, has set a new standard in the numerology of no-

menclature. Japan's rogue copper trader Yasuhide Manaka was "Mr 5 Per Cent". Just about everybody in sport and show business is "Mr 10 Per Cent", and Rentokil chief Sir Clive Thompson made it to "Mr 20 Per Cent". But, at "Mr 30 Per Cent", Mr Zardari has to be world champion. However briefly.

AN INTRIGUING piece of history: Crest, the shares-settlement system, was unveiled in 1993 by Bank of England director Pen Kent. And Crest stood for? Nothing, he replied; it was merely an "encouraging, upbeat"

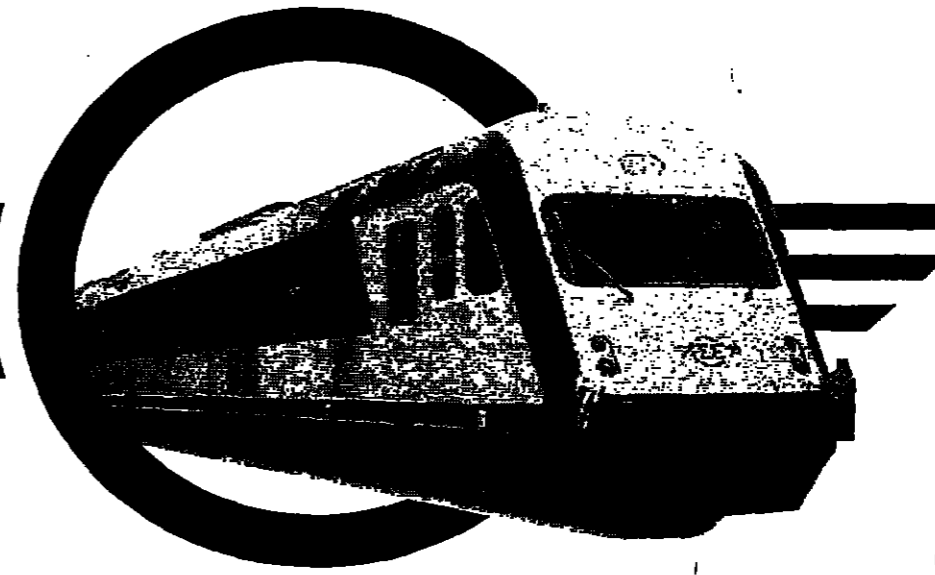


name. Inquiries disclose, however, that Crest was once CREST (Computerised Registration of Equities and Settlement Technology). No doubt the Bank decided acronyms had had their day with the ill-fated TAURUS.

BURTON, heady with the success (?) of its trendy billboard adverts, is going on-line with its own Internet site. At least, it is trying to. Invitations to the launch were requested to RSVF either the old-fashioned way, by post, or by E-mail. Alas, attempts to reach Burton over the Net produced the response: "cannot deliver".

CATER Allen Deal, the telephone stockbroker, has had to rethink its popular offer to frame the certificates of football-club shares. The firm had worked out the price without taking into account the high moon of Preston North End back in the days of good Queen Vic and the concomitant enormous size (more than 2ft long) of the club's vintage paper. It took just one such certificate to squeeze through the letterbox for a revised price list to be published.

We are accelerating Greece into the 21st century.



OSE (The Hellenic Railways Organization) conceived the Greek Railway Network of the future and is now rapidly accelerating it into reality.

Major development works of tunnels carved through mountains, bridges spanning over rivers and ravines have already been completed, opening up straight and fast tracks to allow their new generation of Intercity trains to speed from city to city in the comfort and safety that the 21st century passenger demands.

All this used to be OSE's dream, but now it's become reality, with the major investment programme of over 235 billion drs.

The modernization works of the Hellenic Railways Organization are financed by the European Union and National participation.

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Racing

Gifford at the double

Chris Hawkins

JOSH GIFFORD has been through the double and was playing things down when Mandys Mantino extended his unbeaten run over hurdles to five at Newbury yesterday.

Gifford knows there is usually something nifty waiting round the corner in racing, and even getting round the bend can prove too much for some — as Danjing proved when leading Mandys Mantino and company in the Tom Masson Trophy.

"He's not an easy horse and I decided to take note of the omens," said Knight who was not fazed by the stewards.

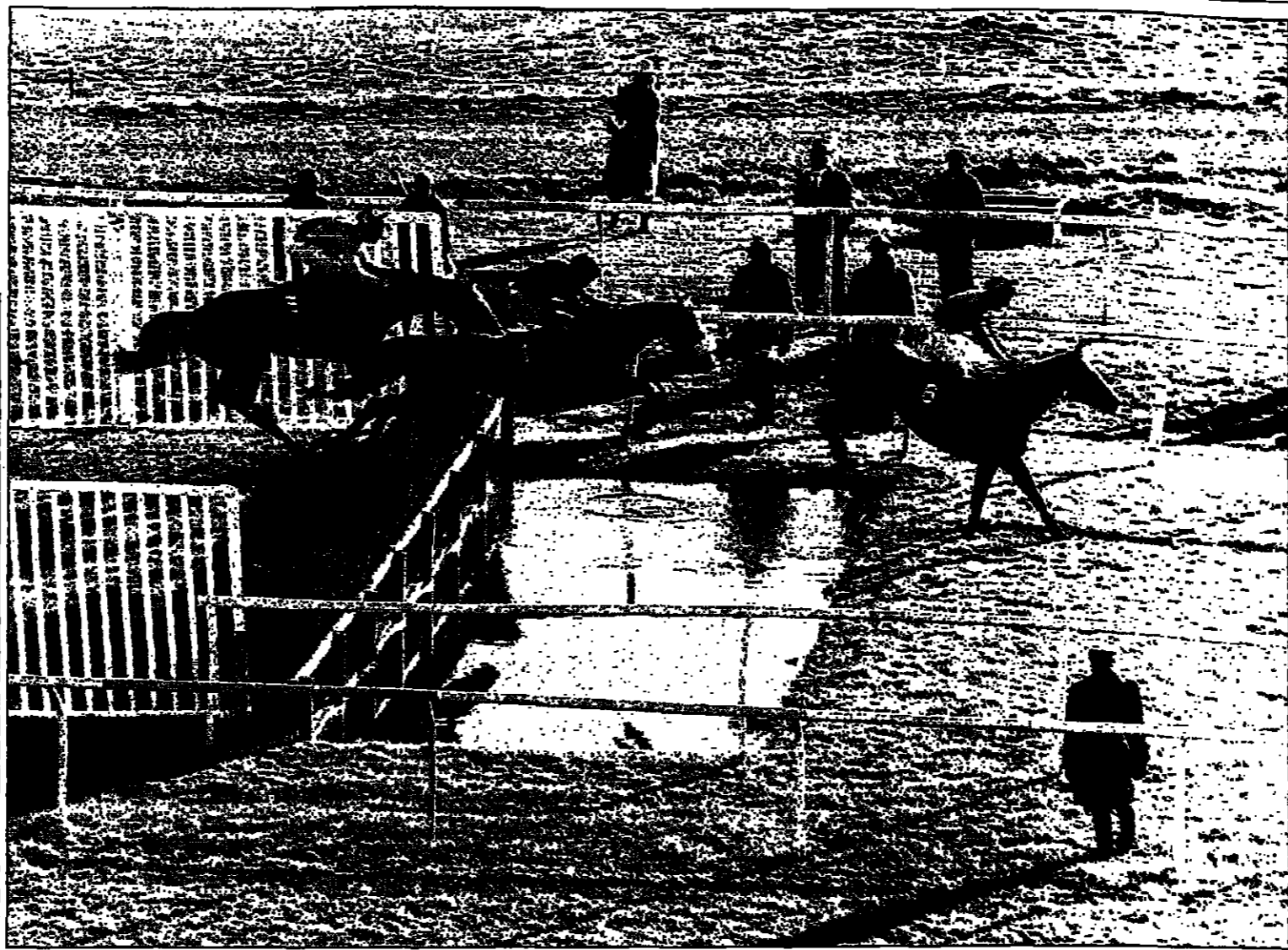
Gifford and Hide had a double when Redecemyourself won the Halloween Novice Chase on his first attempt over fences.

"He's been very careful in schooling at home, but then the ones that take care often run out to be the best," said Gifford.

"He goes so well at home that I was worried he might be a morning glory," said Sherwood.

Jonathan Lower, who was forced into premature retirement when found to have diabetes, completed a crucial stage in his bid to revive his career when riding young.

But the rider, aged 29, who has been with Pipe since leaving school, intends to challenge the decision by applying for a licence in the near future.



Swift and sure... Goldenwill leads rivals over the water jump on her way to victory at Newbury yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

Rosencrantz looks one for the Record

IN THE equine world, as in the realms of human endeavour, a regal pedigree can often be a hindrance and this is certainly so in jumping where the emphasis is on character rather than bloodlines.

Blushing Groom mare, Rosencrantz is bred to win Classics and had every advantage in life, beginning his career in the aristocratic company of Michael Scoute, the Newmarket trainer.

Like many silver-spurred individuals he did not come up to expectations, however, for which he paid the ultimate penalty with a gelding operation and a transfer to the more plebeian pastures of Venetia Williams's jumping yard in Herefordshire.

It seems to suit Rosencrantz and in three runs over hurdles he has won twice, scoring at Wincanton on his reappearance last month when hard ridden to hold El Don by a short-head.

David Nicholson has made a fine start to the season and looks likely to land a double here with Rolfe (2.50) and Foster's Gale (3.20). Kim Bailey's horses are also in tremendous form and the Lambourn trainer should have another winner with Drumcullen (1.50) in the Tiff Handicap Chase.

Pleasure makes the Grade

Ken Oliver

PLEASURE SHARED, a smart staying hurdler, made an impressive start to his racing career when landing the Grade Two Novice Chase at Worcester yesterday.

Despite belly-flopping after the first fence, Philip Hobbs's eight-year-old soon got his act together.

"He was a couple of weeks away from a run and we'd blown up after the second race," reported Hobbs, who bought the gelding out of Kim Bailey's yard for 10,000 guineas.

Hobbs reckoned he has no more plans for the winner but the Feltham Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day could fit into his agenda.

"He was the highest rated novice and staying hurdler last season and we might have gone back to hurdles after today, but he's eight years old so he was never going to jump a fence it had to be this season," said Hobbs.

Towcester programme with guide to the form

Racing programme for Towcester with race numbers, names, and form guides. Includes sections like 1.20 Maiden Stakes, 2.30 Maiden Stakes, 3.50 Maiden Stakes, etc.

Lingfield all-weather Flat card

Racing programme for Lingfield all-weather Flat with race numbers, names, and form guides. Includes sections like 12.10 Protocol, 1.40 Maiden Stakes, 2.10 Polar Champ, etc.

Results

Results section containing race numbers, names of winners, and their respective odds. Includes sections like 1.20 Maiden Stakes, 2.30 Maiden Stakes, etc.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information: 0930 1684, TOWCESTER, TAUNTON, LINGFIELD. Includes a small graphic of a horse.

Soccer

Coca-Cola Cup, third-round replays
Coventry City 0, Gillingham 1

Gillingham forge upset with Smith

Trevor Haylett

GORDON Strachan had to endure an introduction to a night that only Coventry's worst enemies could have devised. Neil Smith's late goal gave Gillingham a deserved victory that puts the Second Division side in the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup for the first time in 33 years and only the second in the competition's history.

deliveries. Too often their high crosses dropped on Gillingham heads. An Eoin Jess volley which drew a one-handed save from Jim Stannard was the closest the Premiership side came to scoring for a long period, but Gillingham kept busy. A testing low shot from Craig Armstrong and a bustling run from Iffy Onuora maintained the impression that could spring an upset.

Liverpool 4, Charlton Athletic 1

McManaman is space master

Ian Ross

WITH a minimum of fuss Liverpool moved forward last night into the last 16 of the League Cup where, predictably, a far greater challenge awaited. Having brushed aside Charlton Athletic they will now contest a place in the quarter-finals with Arsenal at Anfield in a fortnight's time.

With Charlton's finger removed from the dike, the flood warning began to echo around a half-empty stadium and three minutes later, after several defenders had declined the opportunity to clear, Liverpool's advantage was doubled when Redknapp's mistimed shot rolled inside a post.

The results of the third FA Premier League survey of fans, covering the 1995-96 season, were published yesterday. The survey, which was carried out by the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research at the University of Leicester, sent 2,000 questionnaires to season-ticket holders at each Premiership club and 1,000 to non-season-ticket holders. Martin Thorpe analyses the more than 20,000 responses

An average supporter

Loyal, local, male, married and happy in the Premiership comfort zone

HE IS a white European (98.9 per cent), aged between 31 and 40, married or with a partner, in full-time employment and born within 20 miles of the club he supports.

He did not attend university or polytechnic, goes to all home matches but only between one and five away, and travels to games in a car (84 per cent). And, yes, the average fan is a he; 88.2 per cent of fans are male.

He is happy with the level of comfort at home games, feeling safer in seats than on terraces. He has not once felt unsafe inside or outside a Premiership ground this season.

Mr Average is sure that hooliganism has decreased over the past five years (81.5 per cent felt this for away games; 54.9 per cent for home games) and generally feels that hooliganism is "no real problem" at home games, 50.3 per cent for away games and 60.3 per cent away.

He is likely to hear the most racist chants at Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United. If he is a Manchester United season-ticket holder he will think there is too much emphasis on business activities at his club.

Your survey says

Table with columns: Passion, Fidelity, Education. Rows list various clubs and their corresponding values for these categories.



He does not think that the quality of British football is being improved with Europe and believes the best way the sport can improve the general quality of play is to focus more on developing skills and then, in descending order, reorganize junior coaching and playing, change the style of play in England, and reduce the number of matches.

McFarland is back to lead Cambridge

Russell Thomas

ROY MCFARLAND has passed an intensive Cambridge United examination and was installed yesterday as the man to lead the Third Division club to promotion.

other "very impressive" applicants to secure the Abbey Stadium post. McFarland, who also managed Derby (twice) and Bradford City, emerged from a pack of 36 applicants, reduced to three interviewed on Tuesday.

played 396 League games, including 34 for Southampton. His final match was on opening day last season. Tomas Brohin's projected move from Leeds to Sampdoria has collapsed because of ankle trouble, say the Italian club.

ported to be officially ended today. It is understood a deal has been agreed with the Football League that will see the union receive £1.2 million annually for the next five years.

First Division: Manchester C 2, Oxford 3

Elliott and Dibble's double trouble ruins Neal's debut

Paul Fitzpatrick

PHIL NEAL'S Maine Road managerial career got off to a wretched start last night as Oxford snatched only their second away win of the season when the big central defender Matt Elliott headed home three minutes from time.

equalised seven minutes later from close range. City went from close range. City went from close range. City went from close range. City went from close range.

Results

Table listing soccer results for various leagues including Coca-Cola Cup, Nationwide League, and Scottish League.

Sport in brief

Cricket: Don Kenyon, Worcestershire's first Championship-winning captain, has died in hospital aged 72 after being taken ill at a function at New Road. The club's secretary Michael Vockins said: "We are all shocked, numbed and immensely saddened. The club has lost an all-time great."

Rangers in rare hunting role as Celtic aim to stand firm

Patrick Glenn: CELTIC, transformed 13 days ago from predator to prey, have to adapt instantly to their new role if they are to remain at the top of the Premiership. Rangers, conversely, are the hunter, arrive at Parkhead tonight armed with their own ambition.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for various sports including Soccer, Ice Hockey, and Tennis.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for Soccer, Ice Hockey, and Tennis.

Pet hates, top draws

Bolton's Lofty the Lion is the most-liked mascot; Nottingham Forest's squirrel Robin Hood the least-liked.

Most fans dislike troupes of dancing girls at half-time.

Blackburn fans registered the lowest recognition of the Kick Racism Out of Football campaign. The club have the Premiership's second-lowest number of black season-ticket holders.

Manchester United and Wimbledon fans are close to the top of the tables for higher education and salary. Bolton fans are high in education but low in salary. Chelsea fans are generally low in education but high in salary.

Wimbledon season-ticket holders include the fewest Sky subscribers and the highest number of people who went to university or polytechnic.

Coventry top the table of fans who hate the way their club present their home matches, and are third in the table of those who love the presentation.

Leeds fans think the atmosphere at their ground has deteriorated the most.

Tottenham's average match-ticket price (£19.10) was the highest in the Premiership last season; QPR's, at £11.14, was the lowest.

Chelsea's average season-ticket price (£383) was the highest last season; Wimbledon's (£126) the lowest.

Of season-ticket holders who describe their club as less important than five years ago the most numerous, by far, were Leeds United fans.

More Wimbledon fans than any others had supported another team previously. Wimbledon have more new fans than any other club.

Coventry and West Ham have the lowest number of season-ticket holders who went to university or polytechnic.

experiment with video aids for referees, thinks too many red and yellow cards are issued (78.3 per cent feel this) and does not believe that the increase in cards has protected fair players (66.9 per cent).

The "average" above refers to the most widely held view in response to each question.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Wallaby by big" and "Emyr Lewis".

Rugby Union

RFU makes divisionals only route to A team

Robert Armstrong

TWICKENHAM has read the riot act to players in Courage Leagues One and Two who regard divisional fixtures as a representative option they can ignore.

Significantly the RFU has started to use the term "provincial" for divisional matches - an undisguised attempt to instil the games with the competitive clout of provincial competition in New Zealand and South Africa.

The RFU statement read: "Following a meeting of the national selectors on November 3, they reconfirmed the importance of the up-coming provincial matches against Argentina, South Africa A, Queensland and New Zealand Barbarians. Consequently the three England A teams due to play on December 10, 11 and 13 against three of the above will not be named until after the completion of the provincial matches in order to assess individual player performances. The selection for these A matches will take place on December 3."

Tour match: Connacht 20, Australia 37

Wallabies hit by big heave

Lisley Mackenzie

AUSTRALIA maintained their unbeaten tour record but it was Ireland's Cinderella province who stole the show when the Wallabies kicked off their Irish campaign at the Galway Sports Ground yesterday.

The Wallabies ran in five tries to Connacht's one but the home side provided the 8,000 spectators with one of the most memorable and unusual tries in Irish history.

half and kicked Connacht into the lead on 18 minutes with a long-range penalty. Two minutes later the Wallabies claimed their only points of the first half when Gavin touched down for a converted try after stretching the defence. But Edward ported three more penalties and three minutes after the interval, extended the lead to 15-7.

Prevented from playing an expansive game, the Wallabies kept it tight in the second half. The turning point came when their scrum-half, George Cragan, crossed in the 47th minute after a break from the No. 8 Brett Robinson. The full-back Tim Wallace converted and then put his side in front with a penalty.

It was a lead the Australians never lost. They dominated the second half, running in three more tries to ease clear - but it was Connacht's 15-man heave, inspired by their New Zealand coach Warren Gatland, which did the upstaging.

Once again Connacht's key man was the former Five Nations fly-half Eric Elwood, who had been superb in the Ireland A game. Showing no sign of fatigue, he repeatedly set up attacks inside his own

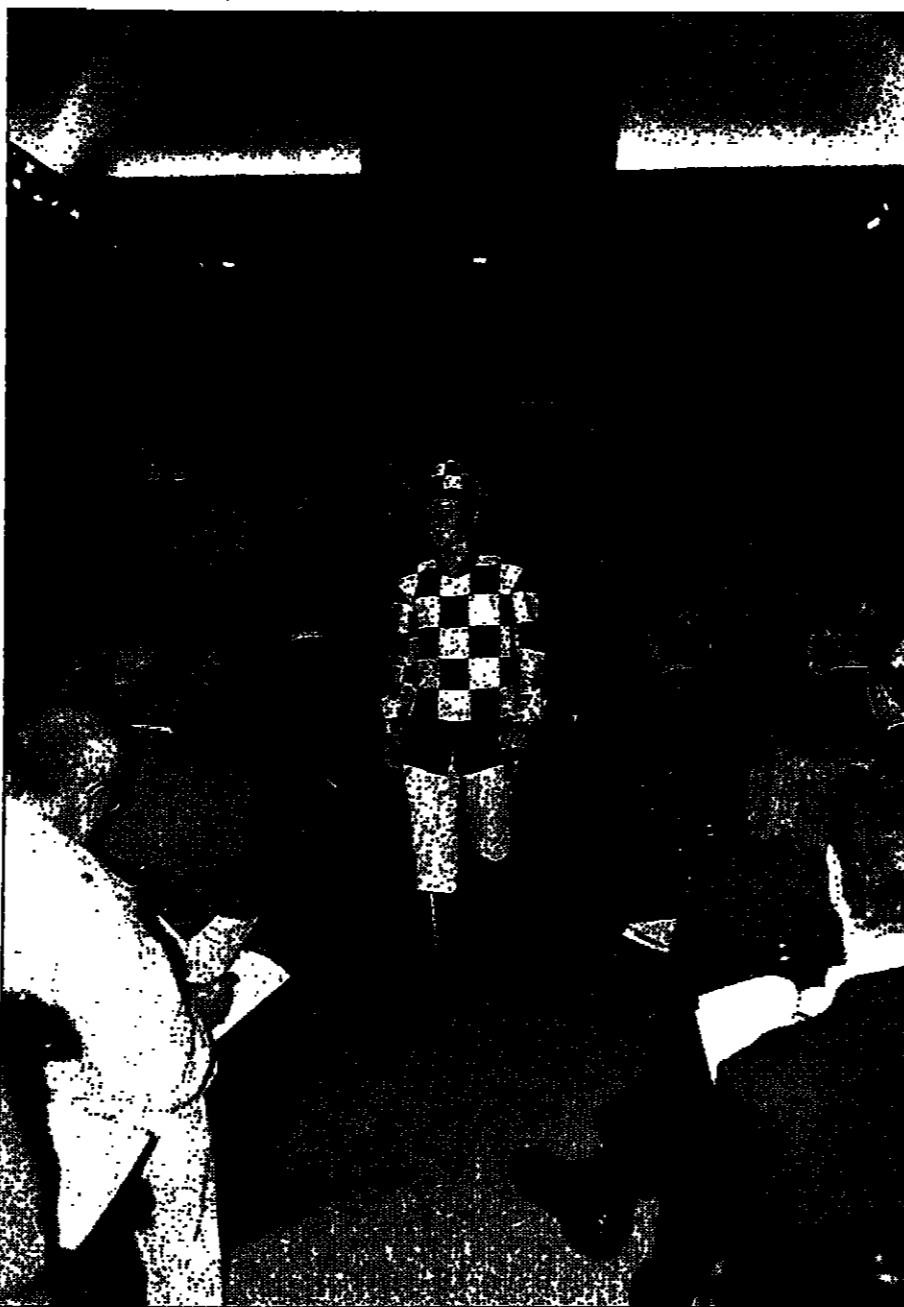
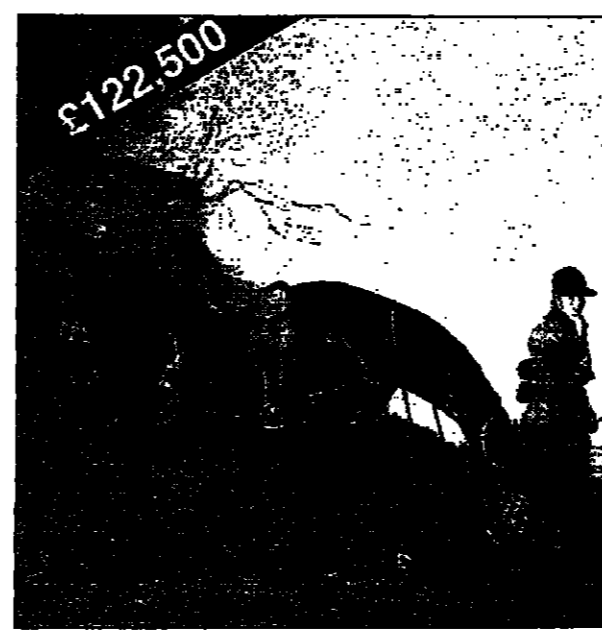
Emyr Lewis misses Cardiff v Bath

EMYR LEWIS will miss Cardiff's European Cup quarter-final against Bath on Saturday. The Wales back-row broke a finger at Toulouse last month and, after a metal-plate operation, is expected to be out for another three weeks.

Bath have returned 2,000 terrace tickets but Cardiff remain confident of a 14,000 sell-out. The Irishman Gordon Black will referee the match, with the Welshman Clayton Thomas in charge of Leicester v Harlequins.



Top lots... James Seymour's Turpin (left), Curriels by Ben Marshall (centre), and Sir Alfred Munnings's Bahram with his groom



Flying colours... lot 192 on show in Bond Street yesterday

Sale sees colour of punters' money

Graham Rock sees racing history go under the hammer at Sotheby's

SOtheby's held its first sale of racing memorabilia yesterday, which included the 12 "cherished" racing colours, which were sold for a total of £129,260.

The most desirable shade, a vibrant dark blue, was knocked down to a telephone buyer for £28,750. Cerise fetched £23,000, terracotta £20,700 and an uninviting lime green £20,700.

The opportunity to choose a combination of any two cherished colours was sold to Peter Mines, the managing director of the Jet Stationery Company which has five horses in training with Jenny Fittman.

The burgundy walls of the saleroom were packed with a rare mixture of fine-art connoisseurs, racing notables, punters and on-lookers seeking a brief respite from the chill winds of Bond Street in London's West End.

the colours of the late Lady Beaverbrook, whose racing memorabilia were dispersed yesterday. Peter O'Sullivan, who will retire next year after half a century of commentating for the BBC, popped in briefly but left empty-handed.

The top price of the sale was £177,500 which secured a James Seymour portrait of Turpin, painted in 1744; it was knocked down to a racehorse owner who bid through one of the 20 telephones that rang through the afternoon.

A glorious Munnings portrait of the 1935 Triple Crown winner Bahram had an top estimate of £40,000 but after a spirited auction it eventually reached £37,300.

History was for sale. A telegram to Heriot Jones from Queen Alexandra, after the suffragette Derby of 1913, read: "Queen Alexandra was very sorry indeed to read of your sad accident caused through the brutal lunatic woman." Jones was riding the royal horse Anmer that trampled the protester Emily Wilding Davison.

Tennis

Rusedski warns Henman of tough second year

Stephen Brierley in Telford

THE line in the international locker rooms last year, after Greg Rusedski had lost the final of the British Nationals, was: And who the hell is this guy Henman who beat the crap out of you? "I took a lot of ribbing," Rusedski admitted yesterday.

He had just beaten Lincolnshire's James Fox 7-6, 6-4. A little later Tim Henman won his second match of the tournament for a place in tomorrow's quarter-finals.

which might help him. But players are always talking to each other in the locker room about ways to beat other opponents. And they are all aware of Henman now. It has been only too obvious how awkward Britain's two top players have found the transition from the free-wheeling international ATP Tour to the cloying domesticity of Telford. There is life after Henman and Rusedski here, even if the indoor lighting gives everyone the pallor of the living dead, but take away the dynamic duo and British men's tennis is in almost the same parlous state as the women's game.

Both men clearly fit Telford a terrible fit. Henman was also taken to a break yesterday before beating Cheshire's Nick Baglin 7-6, 6-0. "Business is business," he said laconically, "but there are times when you lack concentration." Rusedski has had a roller-coaster year, hitting the highs at No. 33 in the world before plunging back into the eighties and then recovering to his present top-50 place. Yet he believes he is a better player now than at the beginning of the year.

Cricket

Revenge of the pie-throwers would be fine fare for Gatting

Andy Wilson at Mount Gambier

MIKE GATTING has a fine chance to rub Rod Marsh's nose in it tomorrow by deploying county seamers as "pie-throwers" by the former Test wicketkeeper - when England A start a four-day match against the Australians at the end of the month.

Marsh, head coach at the academy, claims that his side are the weakest for years, though Gatting and the tour manager David Graveney are sceptical of his sob story. They expect the home attack to be led by Brian Lee, the highly rated younger brother of Somerset's all-rounder Shane, even though he does not feature in a 12-man squad.

Sport in brief

Benn sidesteps assault inquiry

NIGEL BENN's second retirement, which he dramatically announced in the ring in Manchester on Saturday, is likely to be more permanent than the first, writes Jack Morris.

The 32-year-old "Dark Destroyer" was due to appear before the British Boxing Board of Control to answer questions about an assault in a London night-club last month. No police charges have been laid but the board always investigates reports of extra-curricular violence involving professional boxers.

Leigh accounts cleared

LEIGH Centurions have been cleared of any financial irregularities after an investigation by the Rugby Football Union. The club's general secretary John Morris, "He has informed us that no legal proceedings have been issued and he has been advised not to appear before any tribunal."

Gary Broadbent, Wines's 20-year-old full-back who toured New Zealand with the Great Britain Academy side recently, has asked for a transfer. He wants a revision of his contract, which does not expire until June 1998.

Play-off festival put on ice

IN a break with tradition likely to displease many domestic ice hockey fans, the Superleague play-off semi-finals and final will be at the Nymans Arena in Manchester on successive Saturdays, starting on March 22, writes Vic Batchelder.

Golf

Westwood goes eastward and the whole world wants to snap him

David Davies on the 23-year-old from Workson who has found fame in Japan

AS LEE WESTWOOD walked into Tokyo's Haneda airport for the flight to Miyazaki at the Dnlop Phoenix event, a stranger stared at him and then said delightedly: "Champion. Visa champion."

When he played in yesterday's pro-am in the Dnlop event - Japan's richest - he was pictured "on every green and every tee." Even when he practised afterwards the photographers were there, craning their necks to wonder what the fuss was about.

the latest technology, his 55-year-old boss told him it was on Sky TV and no one watches that. The Visa was on national telly, and every-one watches golf in Japan."

"This is my 26th tournament this year," he said, "and I've got to go to Australia and South Africa early next year. I don't want to burn out, because there are Ryder Cup points to be played for."

change his coach and rang the former tour player Peter Cowen at Lindrick, near Sheffield. The next week he was third in the Italian Open, the week after that eighth in the Spanish Open, and two weeks after that 11th in the Volvo PGA at Wentworth.

many times.

SportsGuardian

Emerson return deadline expires today

Ian Ross and John Wardle

MIDDLESBROUGH'S patience with their Brazilian midfielder Emerson will run out at 10 this morning. That is the deadline the club's chairman Steve Gibson has set for the 24-year-old absentee to return from his extended holiday in Brazil.

Last night the club threatened to "throw the book" at Emerson if he fails to return today.

The measures proposed include immediately freezing his £20,000-a-week salary and suing him for breach of contract to recoup much of the £4 million he cost from the Portuguese club Porto less than six months ago. Middlesbrough would also seek legal support to prevent him playing football anywhere in the world for the remaining 3½ years of his contract.

Emerson flew home to Rio de Janeiro "on a short break" with his girlfriend Andrea last week. They went with the club's blessing because he was serving a three-match suspension and England's World Cup qualifier in Georgia had left Middlesbrough with no game that weekend.

On arrival in Brazil, however, Emerson was reported to have said that neither he nor Andrea could settle in Teesside and they did not plan to return.

The club's manager Bryan Robson dismissed this report, saying: "Emerson will not be leaving the club. In fact no one is leaving unless I decide it is in our best interests. I have the full backing of the chairman over this."

Barcelona, coached by the former England manager Bobby Robson, were mentioned as showing interest in the player, but Bryan Robson discounted the rumour.

"I know Bobby well from our England days; he is not the type to go behind my back," said the Middlesbrough manager. "He has not contacted me from Barcelona or left messages. If Bobby wanted one of my players he would contact me direct."

Speculation that Emerson was planning to return to Continental football was revived last night, however, when his manager-agent Da Silva Vega confirmed that he would be having meetings in Italy this week and would not return to his Lisbon office until tomorrow.

Emerson's representative in England, Gianni Paladini, continues to insist that his client will return to Teesside today.

COCA-COLA CUP



Taking wing... Stoke's Ged McMahon puts the Arsenal left-back Nigel Winterburn under pressure at Highbury last night

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Third-round replay: Arsenal 5, Stoke City 2

Wright puts out Stoke fire

Martin Thorpe

ARSENAL came back from a goal down to demolish Stoke City's cup challenge last night. Ian Wright revelled in his rich vein of form by scoring twice to help set up a fourth-round tie with Liverpool, the only side to have beaten the Gunners in the league this season.

This game prefaced a difficult series of league encounters for Arsenal, the results of which will offer a pointer towards the title-winning credentials of the team lying second in the Premiership.

On Saturday they travel to Manchester United, then comes a home North London derby against Tottenham followed by a visit to Newcastle.

The fact that last night's tie against the First Division visitors followed an international week in which many of the Arsenal players featured, illustrated the non-stop pressure on top players to perform at every level.

Any side managed by Lou Macari is capable of setting a

stern test, as witnessed by the 1-1 draw at Stoke in October that prompted this replay. This was proved after 34 minutes when they took the lead. Bould's pass to Merson was intercepted by Kavanagh in the visitors' half and Stoke broke forward at speed. Kavanagh played a one-two with Sheron, and here there was a touch of fortune.

Kavanagh, on the right, passed through to Sheron again, but the ball was slightly diverted by Vieira's outstretched leg which was attempting to cut it out. Instead it deflected past the covering Winterburn and fell perfectly into the path of Sheron who slotted home his 13th goal of the season.

Stoke had already gone close twice, once when a Seaman clearance ricocheted off Sheron and Adams was relieved to clear in front of an open goal. Later another Stoke break set Wallace free on the right but instead of shooting he passed across goal and the ball was cleared for a corner by Dixon.

Three minutes before the break Arsenal equalised.

Vieira pushed a ball through to Bergkamp in the area and as he tried to turn Devlin he tumbled to the ground. The referee gave the penalty which Wright converted for his 14th goal of the season.

No sooner had Arsenal come out for the second half than they scored again. Keown in midfield played a ball out right to Wright which enabled the striker to get behind the covering defenders.

Haring for the by-line he hooked over a cross which just eluded the outstretched arms of Muggleton on the near post and sailed invitingly across goal. There, running in, was Platt who nudged the ball over the line with his chest. Bellyflopp completed, the England midfielder celebrated only his second goal of the season.

That was after just one minute and 10 seconds of the new half. But Stoke came back well from this undermining of their half-time team-talk. On 49 minutes Kavanagh struck a searing free-kick through a crowd of players and Seaman could only parry the ball. Unfortunately for Stoke, no one was there to take advantage of the rebound.

After 74 minutes Arsenal scored their third. Muggleton fumbled Bergkamp's up-and-under for a corner which the Dutchman swung in over the covering defenders and into the path of the unmarked Wright. The diving striker headed in easily.

Arsenal were rampant now and four minutes later Wright turned provider for Berg-

kamp to set up No. 4. Wright's pass found the latter just outside the area, again given acres of room. Bergkamp advanced and with just a small gap to aim at between Muggleton and his left-hand post, unhesitatingly drilled the ball at the target.

Six minutes later it was 5-1. Dixon broke through the inside-right position, held off Whittle, pulled the ball back from the by-line and Muggleton got a touch but deflected the ball to Merson who shot home. Sheron added a consolation for Stoke a minute from time, but it was too little too late.

Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Bould, Adams, Keown, Winterburn, Merson, Vieira, Platt, Bergkamp, Wright.

Stoke City: Muggleton; Pickering, Sanderson, Whittle, Devlin, McMillan, Wallace, Kavanagh, Forsyth, Keen, Sheron.

Referee: G. Willard (Worthing).



Sheron... first off mark

Rest in peace and renown, bright Tommy



Frank Keating

MY grandchildren will be told, with awe and for sure, that their old block was at the ringside in Las Vegas the night Mike Tyson was hit back with a venom which made the world flinch. They will also be told, and if they have any sense they will softly "wow" with even more wonder, that a couple of days later I was asked by Tommy Lawton's son to write an address to be read at his father's funeral in Nottingham. Some honour, some pride.

From the city centre to Bramhope cemetery, the cortege paused outside Meadow Lane, where the Notts County first team stood in touching respect. Exactly 50 football seasons ago Lawton arrived to play there, and for the next three years average gates of 8,500 became 31,000.

Among the hundreds of wreaths there was one of red roses, for Lancashire. Sixty autumns ago, three days after his 17th birthday, the strapping laughter of a lad signed pro for Burnley, and very next day scored a hat-trick against Tottenham at Turf Moor. An all-time great had taken wing. And now he has again.

Twenty years ago, football over and his fame frozen in time if never forgotten, Tom was skint and in despair. He'd had a stroke and a serious stomach operation. "Not one person from 'football' so much as paid him a visit," said his beloved late wife Gaye.

The rent was piling up, he was pursued by the council for rates arrears of £87 and he was perking weathering the ripples from two ludicrously minor but, to him, shaming court cases. "I'd leave home of a morning pretending I had a job, but I'd just sit all day in the library or in Market Square. More than once I thought to end it all, to walk into the Trent."

That interview appeared as this column. We became friends. He was an inveterate letter-writer: big, bold, flowingly neat hand. Barry Williams, editor of the local Evening Post, who spoke with moving warmth at the crematorium yesterday, gave him a weekly slot.

Tom was good at it too, never an "In my day..." man.

He then wrote his memoirs, bright with recall and funny. What tales. I hawked them round the London publishers for him. Not one as much as asked him down for lunch. Most of them, pink-shirted prats, had never heard of him. He had it all, they say. On the ground and in the air. When ageing sages told him there had never been a finer in the air, not even his loved mentor Dixie Dean. Tom would smile wide, make a little grimace and say: "I didn't think I was too bad on the deck as well."

Even in utter modesty, he never denied the wonder of his gifts.

I saw him play only once. Well, sort of. "Wanderer" of the Mersey, Tynes, and Southern League United went to Kettering where Lawton was out to grass as player-manager.

Even before kick-off, awe-struck, I'd got the picture, and years later the precise frisson of recall was conjured by John Moynihan in his classic memoir of a west London schoolboy idolising The Hero at Stamford Bridge in his pump.

"Lawton would stand there during the kick-about with his hands on his hips," Moynihan wrote, "occasionally volleying a practice ball languidly into the roof of the net, all grace and freedom, a look of complete unconcern on his face..."

A FEW weeks ago I watched Newcastle's 5-0 beating of the champions in the old man who had seen Lawton's prime time. The most memorable thunderclap that afternoon was when Shearer, with no backlift and all of 25 yards out on the angle, suddenly let rip and laced the thing against Schmeichel's right post before the giant goalkeeper could say "Traaaaaaah!"

The dramatic, daring (and sheer oomph) of that moment was not to be replayed nor reported because of the upcoming haul of goals. But I was out of my seat as the fulminating shell left the upright twanging and rebounding away.

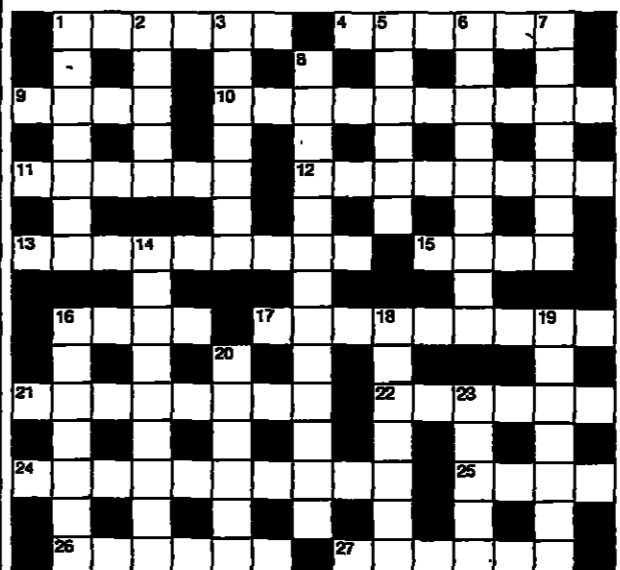
Great, said my friend, "but a Lawton shot like that would have been just inside the post, that's the difference."

Yesterday on Lawton's coffin lay his 12th tasselled England cap, won half a century ago this month against Holland. He scored four that day. Twenty years ago he had sold the cap for a pittance. A collector was privileged to loan it back.

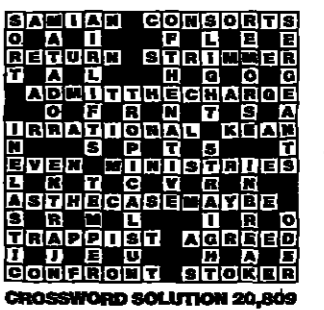
Going into the chapel they played You'll Never Walk Alone; coming out, it was My Way.

Guardian Crossword No 20,810

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- 1 Dolly is a model (6)
 - 4 Makes a pretence a reality? (6)
 - 9 Recommended course for Parliament (4)
 - 10 American beggar—a kitchenworker? (10)
 - 11 Fresh air—and that's essential for a man (6)
 - 12 A fetching breed of dog (6)
 - 13 Accommodation for Eastern males in temporary dwellings (9)
 - 15 A key, it is needed for opening (4)
 - 16 Classical maid who always had the last word (4)
 - 17 Developed idea drawn from a bygone era (9)
 - 21 One in charge of a spinning wheel (8)
 - 22 Field the ball (6)
 - 24 Who cares, for example, about such questions? (10)
 - 25 Board of trade (4)
 - 26 Mary and Elizabeth, for example, from Stroud (6)
 - 27 Make merry, take in a show (5)
- Down**
- 1 No doubt many yarns have been spun about it (7)
 - 2 All for musicians (5)
 - 3 A stretch of river accommodating some vessels (7)
 - 5 To hush an upset baby is rather mean (6)
 - 6 Obviously guilty, with a fistful of diamonds? (3-5)
 - 7 Lengthen your strides if a stair-tread is missing (4,3)
 - 8 Blown up charge (8,5)
 - 14 He used tax form that's expired (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,810

- 18 You won't hear a sound out of it (7)
 - 19 Pardon sailor's love affair (7)
 - 20 High-brown writings (3,4)
 - 22 Sit on the fence, or something similar (5)
- Solution tomorrow**
- 23 Back? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-9pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS.

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